

LAHORE (INP): PML-Q President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has decided to revive the party politically. He appointed Dr. Muhammad Amjad as party chief organiser and a notification has also been issued in this regard. In a statement issued here, the PML-Q president directed Dr. Amjad to reconstitute the party by persuading disgruntled members, re-activating the wings and restructuring the party abroad.

GILGIT (INP): The Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly has passed a resolution reaffirming their support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and their right to self-determination. The resolution condemned the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A, human rights violations, sham elections, and other actions. The resolution was passed unanimously during the 33rd Session of the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly here in Gilgit on Sunday.

Decades of Indian occupation

Pakistanis, Kashmiris observed Black Day

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistanis and Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and worldwide observed Kashmir Black Day on Sunday, marking 77 years since Indian troops illegally entered into the valley on October 27, 1947.

President Asif Ali Zardari called upon the international community to exert pressure on India to halt its ongoing human rights abuses in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), alleviate the suffering of Kashmiris, and implement UN Security Council resolutions.

"Pakistan will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with its Kashmiri brothers and sisters until they achieve their inalienable right to self-determination," the president said in a message on the occasion of "Kashmir Black Day", 27 October 2024.

The president said October 27, 1947, marked a dark chapter in South Asian history when India sent troops to occupy Jammu and Kashmir. For decades, the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) have endured brutal repression by Indian forces.

Over the years, he said India had transformed IIOJK into one of the most militarised regions in the world. Thousands of innocent Kashmiris have been killed, while their legitimate lead-

ers remain imprisoned, and local media is heavily censored.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said Pakistan has always expressed its unwavering solidarity with Kashmiri brothers and sisters and it will continue to extend its full moral, diplomatic and political support to them until the final resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

In his message on the occasion of 'Kashmir Black Day' - 27 October 2024, the prime minister said on this day 77 years ago, Indian forces landed in Srinagar. India has since stifled the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiri people to determine their destiny. It has failed to fulfill its obligations under the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

He said the people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) had suffered countless hardships during the last seventy-seven years. However, their resolve to realize their inalienable right to self-determination remains as firm as it was in 1947.

Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar said that October 27, 1947, was the darkest day in the history of the subcontinent, as on

that day India illegally occupied the state of Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

In his message on October 27, Black Day of Kashmiris, he said on that day, India illegally annexed Jammu and Kashmir by landing its troops against the wishes of Kashmiris.

"Despite the atrocities and brutal policies of the Indian fascist government, the valiant Kashmiri people are fighting bravely for their freedom," said the minister.

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Engineer Amir Maqam, on Sunday led a rally in the federal capital on the occasion of Kashmir Black Day to express solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Addressing to rally participants here, the minister reminded the people about October 27, 1947, when Indian forces entered Jammu and Kashmir illegally, stating, "No Pakistani can forget this day."

Commending Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif for raising the Kashmir and Palestine issues at the UN General Assembly in September 2024, Amir Maqam reassured that Pakistan will continue to support Kashmir's political, diplomatic, and moral cause until Kashmiris achieve their right to self-determination.

Speaking at the rally, Parliamentary Secretary for

Kashmir Affairs Chaudhry Anwar Ul Haq said that Pakistan had always stood with Kashmiri brothers to get their right of self-determination.

He said that despite resolving the Kashmir issue as per UN resolutions, India once again violating international laws, revoked the special status of Kashmir in 2019.

Chairman Kashmir Committee (KC), Rana Qasim Noon urged the global institutions to uphold UN resolutions and initiate dialogue with Kashmiris, reiterating that India's Independence Day is observed as Black Day in Kashmir as a symbol of resistance.

Addressing Kashmir solidarity rally participants, he underscored Pakistan's commitment to supporting Kashmir's right to self-determination and appealed for international intervention.

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh said that on October 27, 1947, India started state terrorism against Kashmiris and violating human rights in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) for 77 years.

In a message on the occasion of Kashmir Black Day, the minister said that Pakistan would continue to provide moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people in this difficult time.



LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Joint exercise Iqbal-I ends

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Closing ceremony of Pakistan - South Africa Joint Exercise Iqbal-I in Counter Terrorism domain was conducted between the Armies of Pakistan and Republic of South Africa at Cherat, Pakistan.

Two weeks long exercise commenced on 15 October 2024. 2 x Combat Teams from Special Services Group, Pakistan Army and Republic of South Africa Special Forces participated in the Exercise.

Commandant Special Operation School, attended the closing ceremony as Chief Guest.

Colonel SS Lechoenyo, Chief of Staff Republic of South Africa Special Forces also witnessed the Closing Ceremony. The troop displayed highest standards of professional excellence during the conduct.

The Exercise was aimed at refining the drills, procedures and techniques involved in CT operations through joint training, besides harnessing the historic military to military relations among the friendly countries.

UN SC to meet today over Israel's strike on Iran

NEW YORK (Reuters): The United Nations Security Council will meet on Monday to discuss Israel's attack on Iran, council president Switzerland said on Sunday.

The Swiss U.N. mission said the meeting had been requested by Iran with the support of Algeria, China and Russia.

"Israeli regime's actions constitute a grave threat to international peace and security and further destabilize an already fragile region," Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said in a letter to the 15-member council on Saturday.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, in alignment with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and under international law, reserves its inherent right to legal and legitimate response to these criminal attacks at the appropriate time," he wrote.

Scores of Israeli jets completed three waves of strikes before dawn on Saturday against missile factories and other sites near Tehran and in western Iran, Israel's military said. It was retaliation for Iran's Oct. 1 attack on Israel with about 200 ballistic missiles, and Israel warned its heavily armed arch-foe not to hit back after the latest strike.

Israel's U.N. Ambassador Danny Danon rejected Iran's complaint at the United Nations, saying in a statement on Sunday that Iran was "trying to act against us in the diplomatic arena with the ridiculous claim that Israel has violated international law."

PM, Bilawal discuss political situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday held an important meeting with the delegation of the Pakistan People's Party led by its Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

The country's overall political situation came under discussion during the meeting, a press release issued by the PM House said.

Former Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf,

Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider, MNA Syed Naveed Qamar, and Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab were included in the PPP's delegation. Representing Pakistan Muslim League (N), Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar and senior leader Rana Sana Ullah also attended the meeting.

PM Shehbaz Sharif acknowledged that PPP was an important ally of the government. He said the

Pakistan Peoples Party supported the government's every step aimed at bringing economic stability in the country.

The PPP delegation lauded the government's prudent economic policies that helped stabilize the country's economy.

The PPP delegation expressed full confidence in the government's policies and initiatives, which the prime minister welcomed warmly.

Four khwarjis killed in security forces operation

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Four Khwarji were killed by the security forces in two separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, says a press release issued by ISPR on Sunday.

As per the press release, an intelligence based operation was conducted in North Waziristan District and after intense exchange of fire, two khwarji including Kharij Insaf Ullah were sent to hell. In another encounter in Khyber District, own troops effectively engaged the khwarji location and resultantly two khwarji were killed, while three got injured.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from killed khwarji, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the law enforcement agencies as well as the innocent civilians.

Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other kharij found in the area as security

forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country.



Murad urges world to raise voice for Kashmir

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the civilized nations must show their seriousness on the issue of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

On the occasion of Kashmir Black Day, he said that 77 years of atrocities of Indian occupation and aggression had gone by. The CM said, "We stand with the Kashmiri people and will continue to support the Kashmiri people against Indian atrocities."

He was of the view that India was omitting atrocities on the people of IIOJK. IIOJK was a beautiful valley but India had stained it with blood, he said adding that India, through conspiracy, established her oppressive control over IIOJK and massacred Muslims. Murad said, "Today is the darkest day in the history of the world."

The decision of IIOJK based on the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council was the

only solution to the problems of the Kashmiri people. Indian aggression had shed the blood of many innocent Kashmiris, he said.

The CM further said that India declared herself as a secular state but shy away from recognizing the IIOJK people's right to self-determination.

He said, "We will always continue to support the right of the IIOJK people to achieve their legal right to self-determination."

CEC, Uzbek election chief discuss electoral insights

TASHKENT (APP): Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja on Sunday discussed cooperation and shared insights on the electoral process with the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan, Zainuddin Nizamkhovich.

CEC Raja is currently in Tashkent as a special observer for the ongoing parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan.

Both officials agreed to enhance mutual cooperation,

with the meeting focusing on the exchange of electoral experiences between the two countries.

The Chief Election Commissioner visited several polling stations in Tashkent, where he closely monitored the electoral process. He commended the arrangements made for voter convenience and recognized the performance of the polling staff.

During his visit, Sikandar Sultan Raja also toured Tashkent University of

Journalism and Mass Communications, a prestigious educational institution in Uzbekistan. He received a comprehensive briefing on the university's modern educational facilities and media labs.

Last Saturday, the Chief Election Commissioner participated in an important briefing hosted by the Uzbekistan Election Commission, which featured Election Commission Chairpersons from various countries.



TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks during a meeting in Tehran.



KARACHI: Participants of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference participate in rally and chant slogans against Indian atrocities in IIOJK on Kashmir Black Day. —APP Photo

Rally in Lahore on Kashmir Black Day

LAHORE (APP): The district administration of Lahore held a rally to observe Kashmir Black Day, starting from Alhamra and concluding at the Governor's House, here on Sunday.

A large number of citizens participated, including the Secretary of Information and the Additional Deputy Commissioner Headquarters. Participants carried placards and chanted slogans such as "Kashmir Banay Ga Pakistan," expressing solidarity with the Kashmiri people.

This day commemorates the entry of Indian forces into Kashmir on October 27, 1947, a pivotal moment that has led to significant suffering for Kashmiris. Deputy Commissioner Syed Musa Raza stated that Kashmir is the jugular vein of Pakistan, asserting that it is difficult to live without it.

Tordher visits fire incident site

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Abdul Karim Tordher, Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa visited the site of the fire incident in Hayatabad where he acknowledged and appreciated the courage and bravery shown by all the relief agencies and their staff for putting up their best and succeeding in restraining the fire and avoiding any human loss.

An unfortunate fire incident occurred at an industrial unit in the Peshawar Economic Zone, despite all necessary fire control measures being in place within the facility.

The fire, which began early noon on Saturday, was quickly responded to

by the Economic Zone's internal Rescue Team which has two Fire extinguisher engines and ambulances. The fire-fighting teams and Rescue 1122 arrived on-site within minutes.

KPEZDMC teams were on the ground from the outset, coordinating efforts alongside the local government. Full support was being extended from the Commissioners Officer, Civil Defence and the Firefighting teams from both Peshawar and Khyber Districts. Emergency response teams worked tirelessly to prevent the fire from spreading to neighbouring units.

The teams also took measures to sensitize neighbouring industries to

remove any chemicals and flammable materials that could have escalated the situation, or could have caused the spread of fire. Upon the direction of Chief Minister, to quarantine this fire at the earliest, around 40 fire engines and emergency vehicles, succeeded in restricting the spread, which otherwise would have caused multiple losses.

Pakistan Airforce Fire Engines also joined to use Petroleum extinguishing foams on the fire that continued due to chemicals being on fire.

No casualties have been reported, while all teams worked closely with all the relevant authorities to control the fire and successfully extinguish it.

Another 116 dengue cases reported in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): The total number of dengue cases were recorded 5,041 after the registration of 116 fresh cases in the province on Sunday.

Health authorities are closely monitoring the situation, particularly in Rawalpindi, which reported 104 new cases during the last 24 hours, indicating the district's worsening conditions over recent weeks.

Health department's latest report shows that a total of 827 cases emerged across Punjab in just last week, underscoring the urgent need for containment measures. Among other districts, Lahore reported four new cases, while Mandi Bahauddin reported two, Faisalabad, Attock, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Chiniot, and Dera Ghazi Khan each confirmed one new case.

The health department has assured the public of adequate resources and medicine supplies across public sector hospitals. Citizens seeking treatment, information, or wishing to file complaints about dengue could access support through the department's free helpline at 1033. Vigilance, preventive actions, and public awareness remain essential in curbing the spread of dengue across Punjab. The health authorities urge citizens to stay informed and take necessary precautions.

Information and Public Relations, Barrister Dr. Saif, emphasized that nearly 49% of the province's population lives below the poverty line, where the loss of a family member often brings severe financial hardship.

Although the loss of life is irreplaceable, this significant measure by the government seeks to provide financial relief to affected families. Under this program, bereaved families will receive PKR 500,000 in financial assistance for the death of individuals aged 60 or older, and up to PKR 1,000,000 for those younger than 60. Dr. Saif remarked that this scheme marks a vital step toward building a welfare state in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He also mentioned that to effectively administer the insurance program, the government is considering establishing a provincial insurance company to manage the mechanism efficiently.

CM message on Kashmir Black Day

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has paid glowing tribute to the courageous people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and strongly condemned the atrocities being committed in the valley.

In her message on 'Kashmir Black Day' being observed on Sunday, the CM expressed her deep connection to Kashmir, stating it was very close to her heart. CM Maryam Nawaz emphasized that brave Kashmiris were striving for their right to self-determination despite facing oppression and injustice. She highlighted that a peaceful resolution to the Kashmir issue was essential for lasting peace in the region.

Reaffirming Pakistan's unwavering support for the Kashmiri people, she noted that every citizen of Pakistan prays for the freedom of occupied Jammu and Kashmir. She pledged to amplify the voices of Kashmiris globally and urged the international community to play its role in securing their rights. The chief minister expressed optimism, confident that the sacrifices of the Kashmiri people would ultimately bear fruit and that the future of Kashmir was bright.

Police intensify action against kite flying

LAHORE (APP): On the orders of the Punjab chief minister, the Lahore police are actively pursuing a crackdown on kite flying and the use of metallic kite string. City Police Officer (CPO) Bilal Siddique Kamyana ordered the campaign to be intensified, emphasizing a zero-tolerance approach against those involved in the hazardous activity.

This year's crackdown has led to 2,708 cases being registered and 2,774 individuals apprehended. Police have also seized 54,556 kites and 2,447 spools of kite string from those detained. Divisional arrests include 670 suspects in the City Division, 585 in Cantonment, 219 in Civil Lines, 402 in Sadar, 373 in Iqbal Town and 525 in Model Town Division.

In this regard, the CCPO Lahore reiterated that strict measures will continue against individuals manufacturing, selling or using metallic kite string. He declared that those involved in this dangerous business are not deserving of leniency, ordering a zero-tolerance policy.

He directed divisional officers to make the crackdown more effective and to tighten the noose around law-breakers involved in the online trade of kites and metallic string. He also urged parents to prevent their children from participating in this life-threatening activity.

No room for terrorism in Islam: Governor Kundi

LAHORE (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Sunday emphasized that there is no room for terrorism in Islam, saying, "This is a religion of peace."

He expressed these views while attending and addressed an international religious conference at Minhaj University, focused on the themes of politics and violence in the name of religion.

He praised Minhaj University for its role in guiding the youth in the right

direction, commending the institution's contributions to education and research.

Kundi stressed the importance of collective efforts for the development and prosperity of Pakistan, urging every Pakistani to take initiative.

He highlighted the consistent efforts of Sheikh-ul-Islam Professor Dr. Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri in promoting interfaith harmony and peace.

The Governor also pointed out the significance of presenting

Pakistan's soft image to the world, especially considering Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's strategic location bordering Afghanistan.

He reiterated that extremism, violence, and terrorism have no place in Islam and called for unity to combat these issues.

"Two global powers have attempted to assert control over this region, but they have not succeeded," Kundi concluded, reinforcing the need for a united front against extremism and terrorism.

KP eyeing life insurance for its citizens: Saif

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Following the successful implementation of universal health coverage in the province, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is now advancing an innovative plan to provide life insurance to its citizens.

This welfare initiative is designed to offer financial security to society's disadvantaged and vulnerable segments. Commenting on the initiative, the Advisor to the Chief Minister for

Information and Public Relations, Barrister Dr. Saif, emphasized that nearly 49% of the province's population lives below the poverty line, where the loss of a family member often brings severe financial hardship.

Although the loss of life is irreplaceable, this significant measure by the government seeks to provide financial relief to affected families. Under this program, bereaved families will receive PKR

500,000 in financial assistance for the death of individuals aged 60 or older, and up to PKR 1,000,000 for those younger than 60. Dr. Saif remarked that this scheme marks a vital step toward building a welfare state in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He also mentioned that to effectively administer the insurance program, the government is considering establishing a provincial insurance company to manage the mechanism efficiently.

Bilawal hails global support for cancer awareness

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed admiration for the global athletic community's solidarity in raising awareness about cancer, calling it a "noble cause" that underscores a critical health issue.

Speaking to the media on Sunday after attending a cancer awareness event at the Polo Club in Lahore, Bilawal emphasised the event's importance in promoting breast cancer awareness nationwide. During the media interaction, he said that his visit to Lahore was primarily to support this cancer aware-

ness polo event.

He also highlighted his recent meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, reaffirming his commitment to the mission of spreading awareness and stating that his focus remains on health initiatives rather than political amendments.

Joining him at the meeting with the premier were PPP leaders Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider, Syed Naveed Qamar, and Murtaza Wahab. The PM was accompanied by Rana Sanaullah, Azam Nazeer Tarar, and Attorney

General Mansoor Awan. Bilawal also voiced pride in witnessing women's participation in polo, noting that it not only challenges traditional barriers but also fosters broader inclusivity in sports.

He commended the dedication of the event's organizers and participants, adding that its impact goes beyond the realm of sports by strengthening community spirit and promoting shared responsibility in addressing health concerns. The PPP chairman also gave away awards to the winner and runner up teams.

Walk held to mark Kashmir Black Day

KARACHI (INP): To mark October 27 as Black Day in solidarity with the Kashmiri people, a walk was organized at Mazar-e-Quaid in Karachi.

Deputy Commissioner Shahzad Fazal Abbasi, Assistant Commissioner Dr Esa Khan, and Aurangzaib, a legendary figure in sports, joined with notable leaders from the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) – General Secretary Advocate Parvaz Ahmed, Senior Leader Syed Ajaz Ahmed, and Shaikh Abdul Majid – to express unwavering support for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Shahzad Fazal Abbasi emphasized that "Kashmir is our pride, and it is our responsibility to support our Kashmiri brothers and sisters at every level." His

remarks underscored Pakistan's long-standing commitment to the Kashmir cause, reaffirming that the struggle of the Kashmiri people resonates deeply with the people of Pakistan.

Assistant Commissioner Dr Esa Khan also spoke on this occasion, highlighting that the right to self-determination is a universally recognized principle. "The international community must raise its voice for the fundamental rights of Kashmiris," Dr. Khan stated, urging global leaders to acknowledge and support the Kashmiri people's legitimate aspirations for freedom.

All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter General Secretary Advocate Parvaz Ahmed expressed profound gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner, Assistant

Commissioner, and all participants for their solidarity with Kashmir. He remarked, "India has deployed all means to suppress the spirit of the Kashmiri people, yet Kashmiris have demonstrated an unbreakable resolve for their rightful cause. Their uncountable sacrifices will not be in vain, and they will not yield until they achieve independence from India and unite with Pakistan."

The walk served as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people and of Pakistan's continued solidarity with their struggle. The participants called upon the world community to recognize and support Kashmir's right to self-determination and urged an end to the ongoing human rights violations in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir.

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نمبر شمار	تفصیل	اطلاعاتی صف (قریباً)	لوکیشن
1	ڈیویری ہال گواڈفادر	2735.70 Sft	جی بی ایبٹ آباد پوسٹ
2	ٹاؤن ہال	221.00 Sft	جی بی ایبٹ آباد پوسٹ
3	ٹاؤن ہال	187.00 Sft	جی بی ایبٹ آباد پوسٹ
4	فرسٹ فلور ہال	2099.50 Sft	جی بی ایبٹ آباد پوسٹ
5	کینٹین بک برآمدہ	1381.19 Sft	جی بی ایبٹ آباد پوسٹ

شرائط وضوابط

1. ٹینڈر فارم بیجی کی ویب سائٹ سے حاصل کی جانے والی تفصیلی شرائط وضوابط فارم میں موجود ہونگے۔ ٹینڈر فارم میں ملے ہوئے (RS2000) کا قابل واپسی کسی بھی جی بی ایبٹ آباد (ACG-67) کے تحت بیجی کا کارڈ CDR کے ساتھ پیش کرنا کوہیا کیا جائے۔ بصورت دیگر درخواست ناقابل وصول ہوگی۔

2. ٹینڈر فارم میں حصہ لینے والے درخواست کنندگان کا ڈیپازٹ ملے ہوئے (Rs 200,000) CDR کے ساتھ پیش کرنا میں ملے ہوئے جی بی ایبٹ آباد واپس ہے۔

3. سرکاری فارم مورخہ 15-11-2024 کو دورہ 12 بجے تک پیش کرنا میں بذریعہ E-PADS سے موصول ہونے چاہیں جو کہ ای ریڈو دورہ 23:00 بجے تکلی میران کی موجودگی میں کھولے جائیں گے۔ درخواست کنندگان کو ٹینڈر (سہل) 9213380-091 سے فزنی اوقات میں حاصل کی جاسکتی ہیں۔

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01	415215/P-41 (Re-Tender)	Proc of Image Intensifier Tube	01	EA-01	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 04 to 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
02	415218/P-41 (Re-Tender)	Proc of A DLP-LT for Blk-II	01	EA-07	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
03	415219/P-41 (Re-Tender)	Proc of DSP Board (CS-1)	01	EA-02	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
04	424530/P-42	Batteries for NAHL-II (UG) Birds	01	EA-79	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
05	424549/P-42	UPS 1KVA for Video Conference Equipment	01	EA-25	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 03 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
06	424550/P-42	Equipment for Aerospace and Mechanical Labs at CAE (PAFAA)	03	EA-01	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 05 to 08 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
07	424551/P-42	Pre-Fabricated Containers	01	EA-06	Pak Rs	13-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
08	424552/P-42	Superseder Battery Charger	01	EA-04	Pak Rs	13-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
09	424553/P-42	Oxygen / Air / Nitrogen Trolley Spares	02	EA-Var	Pak Rs	13-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
10	436978/P-43	Proc of Spares for TACAN NM-7000 & 2010 and VOR	10	EA-Var	FE	27-11-24	Within 04 to 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
11	436979/P-43	Proc of Timing Module / High Dynamic Satellite Receiver	01	EA-01	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 08 months after signing of contract	1100 Hrs 1130 Hrs
12	436980/P-43	Proc of Analog Telephone Sets	02	EA-Var	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 03 months after signing of contract	1100 Hrs 1130 Hrs
13	436982/P-43	Proc of ICT Equipment for SOE PAAK [Basic Trg]	01	EA-07	Pak Rs	13-11-24	Within 03 months after signing of contract	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
14	436983/P-43	Proc of VVIP Intercom Exchange Along with UPSs	03	EA-Var	Pak Rs	13-11-24	Within 03 months after signing of contract	1100 Hrs 1130 Hrs
15	436984/P-43	Proc of Link Integration Gateway (CYG-II)	01	EA-01	Pak Rs	14-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1100 Hrs 1130 Hrs
16	448405/P-44	Coach AP	01	EA-12	Pak Rs	13-11-24	As per IT documents	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
17	448406/P-44	Car 1300 CC	01	EA-17	Pak Rs	14-11-24	As per IT documents	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
18	459773/P-45	Film auto Processor	01	EA-01	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
19	459774/P-45	Emergency Light H/ Held (Torch)	01	EA-1400	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
20	467272/P-46	Suit Case Aircrew	01	EA-308	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
21	467275/P-46	Sunglasses	06	PR-1174	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
22	467276/P-46	Sand Bags	01	EA-290521	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
23	467277/P-46	PAF Tag CD	01	EA-50000	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
24	467278/P-46	Belt Broad Combat Dress	07	EA-10000	Pak Rs	13-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
25	467279/P-46	Vest Full Sleeve White	03	EA-10000	Pak Rs	13-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
26	467280/P-46	Vest Summer Sage Green	04	EA-10000	Pak Rs	13-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
27	467281/P-46	Vest Full Sleeve Sage Green	03	EA-12500	Pak Rs	13-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
28	467282/P-46	Quilt Single Polyester with Bag and Quilt Cover	02	EA-4000 + EA-8000	Pak Rs	14-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
29	467283/P-46	High Altitude Clothing and Snow Shoes	11	EA-Var	Pak Rs	14-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
30	467284/P-46	Toshak Cotton	01	EA-3000	Pak Rs	19-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
31	467285/P-46	Duree Small	01	EA-9000	Pak Rs	19-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
32	467286/P-46	Cloth Shirt Winter (2022)	01	MR-7000	Pak Rs	19-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
33	467287/P-46	T-Shirt (PT / Sports)	04	EA-21500	Pak Rs	19-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
34	467288/P-46	Jacket Anti-Static Airmen	02	EA-2000	Pak Rs	20-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
35	467289/P-46	Steel Trunk	01	EA-3500	Pak Rs	20-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
36	467253/P-46 (Re-Tender)	Valve Cylinder High Pressure	01	EA 125	Pak Rs	12-11-24	30 Sep, 25	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs

Contact Person / Ph No for Detail: For S. No 1 to 3 ADP-41 051-9281361, **For S. No 4 to 9** ADP-42 051-9281362, **For S. No 10 to 15** ADP-43 051-9527715, **For S. No 16 & 17** ADP-44 051-9281365, **For S. No 18 & 19** ADP-45 051-9281365, **For S. No 20 to 36** ADP-46 051-9281366

CORRIGENDUM OF ENTRIES PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS / PPRA WEBSITE						
S. NO	IT NO.	NOUN	Amendment in Opening Date		PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS	REMARKS
			FOR	READ		
01	424531/P-42 (Extension)	Battery Pack (PLB-MR-509/2) For installation in PLB Radios	22-10-24	06-11-24	Daily "The Nation" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dt 23-09-24	Opening dates have been extended
02	424535/P-42 (Extension)	Magnetic Bar for FOD Sweeper Assy	22-10-24	06-11-24	Daily "Frontier Post" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dt 07-10-24	
03	424536/P-42 (Extension)	Soap Machine Spectrometer with Allied Accessories	22-10-24	06-11-24		
04	424540/P-42 (Extension)	Air Conditioning Trolley Truck	23-10-24	06-11-24		
05	424542/P-42 (Extension)	Solar Aviation Taxiway Lights	23-10-24	05-11-24		
06	424544/P-42 (Extension)	Vacuum Circuit Breaker	23-10-24	05-11-24		
07	436960/P-43 (Extension)	Proc of Data Logger GPS Receiver	22-10-24	29-10-24		
08	436961/P-43 (Extension)	Proc of Developer Work Station (AI)	22-10-24	29-10-24		
09	436964/P-43 (Extension)	Proc of Kit Items for Serial Upgrade of MPDR-60/90	23-10-24	30-10-24		
10	436965/P-43 (Extension)	Proc of Timing Module-1 (Mini JLT)	23-10-24	30-10-24		
11	436966/P-43 (Extension)	Proc of Crypto Module (LPM)	23-10-24	30-10-24		
12	459762/P-45 (Extension)	Walk Through Gate	22-10-24	05-11-24		
13	459751/P-45 (Extension)	CAP/PAD items for SAAB-2000 A/C	23-10-24	06-11-24	Daily "K2" & "Express Tribune" Dt 21-10-24	
14	467248/P-46 (Extension)	Lubricating Oil Turbine (OX-9)	17-10-24	31-10-24	Daily "The Nation" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dt 16-09-24	
15	467249/P-46 (Extension)	Fuel 100 LL	23-10-24	05-11-24	Daily "The Nation" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dt 23-09-24	

S. NO	IT NO.	NOUN	Amendment in Time Period for Performance of Contract		PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS	REMARKS
			FOR	READ		
01	467267/P-46	Aviation Jet Lubricating Oil (HP-8A)	01-07-25 To 30-06-26	31-07-25	Daily "Pakistan Observer" & "Dunya" Dt 14-10-24	Time Period for Performance of Contract has been Changed

CANCELLATION OF ENTRIES PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS / PPRA WEBSITE						
S. NO	IT NO.	NOUN	Amendment in Opening Date		PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS	REMARKS
			FOR	READ		
01	436975/P-43 (Cancellation)	Proc of Servers High End for deployment of Data Fusion Solution (OSINT)	07-11-24	Cancelled	Daily "K2" & "Express Tribune" Dt 21-10-24	The case has been cancelled

- Instructions / Guidelines for participating in Tenders and complete specifications can be downloaded from PAF website i.e. www.paf.gov.pk under the heading "Media" "PAF Ads" 'General Instructions DP (Air) Suppliers' (for guidelines to participate in tenders).
- ITs documents can be obtained in soft copy via request letter through e-mail address to (pa05@paf.gov.pk).
- Firms, un-registered/un-indexed with DGDP interested to participate in the competition on Earnest Money are required to provide financial capability (minimum 6 months Bank Statements) proof of go down and manufacturer / stockist, 02 photocopies of NIC of the owner in case of FOR tenders and agency agreement with OEM along with the request. Request for issuance of IT will be entertained 07 days before opening date of tender.
- A treasury Challan of Rs 2,000/- debitable to Main Head XLVII Main Head XII Sub Head A is required to be submitted by the un-registered/un-indexed firms along with the request.
- Tender Notice is also available on PPRA website i.e. www.ppra.org.pk.

PAF HOSPITAL MASROOR (MED) 021-99525309
Quotations are required from well reputed / registered contractors regarding supply of PVMS Medicines, FY 2024- 2025 to PAF Hospital Masroor, List of medicines would be collected from Medical Store PAF Hospital Masroor during working hours, Any relevant information can be obtained from Medical Store PAF Hospital, Masroor, Mobile 03068656301 and 03362447048

PAF BASE KOHAT (MED) 0922-9260092
Quotations are required for supply of PVMS NA Medicines / X Ray of 2nd Qtr FY 2024-25 of amount Rs. 1.3 Mil, Interested parties can submit their quotations in a single package containing two separate envelopes, For further details, terms and conditions please contact on 0922-9260092-3 EXT 3989

PAF BASE MALIR (LOG) 021-99533889
LP of Tyre 265/70 R16 (H2J71R-RJMRS), Hiring of following type of civil transport Vehicles, High / Low flat Bed 20', 40'and 30' feet. Container 20, 24', 30', 40' feet, From From:- Kamra, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Pasni and Skardu to Karachi, Pásni and point 'X' Karachi, From:- Karachi and Point 'X', to Kamra, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Sakardu, Pásni (Ea As Req), Note:- For detail specification, please contact Log Sqn on Tel: 021-99533889 & 0300-3930495

PAF BASE, MINHAS (MED) 051-9533901
Sealed tenders are invited for bulk purchase of medicines on institutional rates (Brand name) to Medical Squadron PAF Base, Minhas, List of medicines may be collected from Medical Store of Medical Squadron PAF Base, Minhas in working hours (0800 hours to 1430 hours), contact on Tel No:- 0519533901, Cell No:- 0334-3569414

PAF HOSP MM ALAM (MIANWALI) (MED) 0459-5319
PAF Hospital, MM Alam (Mianwali) requires Quotations from well reputed pharmaceutical / companies / contractors / supplier & distributor for purchasing of N/A Medicines and disposable items in bulk quantity, All quotations should be quoted on company letter head, List of Medicines / disposable items and any other information can be collected from Medical Store PAF Hospital, MM Alam during working hours (0900 hrs to 1400 hrs), Mobile: 0321-7610348

PAF HOSPITAL PESHAWAR 091-9210777
Invitation of Tenders for Purchase of PVMS NA Medicines / Items for 2nd Quarter of Financial Year 2024-25: Sealed tender are invited from reputable, well - experienced, financially sound and Income Tax Registered Pakistani Firms / Contractors for supplying of PVMS NA medicines / items for 2nd Qtr FY 2024-25 of amount Rs. 18,27,224/- (medicines list attached) to PAF Hospital Peshawar, Those firms which are not registered with PAF can also participate in tendering process, contact 091-9210777 Ext 3801 - 3905

PAF BASE MASROOR (LOG) 021-99522287
Adhesive Rtv 3145 Grey (310 ml), Primer 1204 (for RTV 3145), Toyota Double Cabin (installation of Armor sheets), Truck 3/5 Ton (installation of Armor sheets), Epoxy ADH, Carton Boxes (All Sizes), Promixer (CMS-1000) black (Ea As Req), Note: For further details contact Tele No.: 021-99522275, Mobile No.: 0321-9835250

PAF BASE MUSHAF (MED) 048-950-5371
Quotations are required for supply of PVMS NA Medicines 2nd Qtr (NA Items FY 2024-25), Interested parties can submit their quotations in a single stage two separate envelope: (each envelope shall contain separately the technical proposal and the financial proposal), Interested companies should have to produce following documents: PPRA compliances documents, Valid NTN Certificate, Valid Local Drug Selling License, Valid Sales Tax Registration, Professional Tax Certificate, Other necessary documents, For further details, terms and conditions please contact SMO Medical Squadron Mushaf on Tel Ext:- 048-950-5371 & 0321-7057551 (SMO, Medical Squadron Mushaf is liable to partially of fully accept or reject any of the quotation)

PAF AIRMEN ACADEMY KORANGI CREEK (MED) 0219503901
Quotations are required for supply of NA PVMS Medicines 2nd Qtr (NA Items FY 2024-25), Interested parties can submit their quotations in a single package containing two separate envelope : (each envelope shall contain separately the financial proposal and the technical proposal), Interested companies should have to produce following documents: Valid NTN Certificate, Valid Local Drug Selling License, Valid Sales Tax Registration, Professional Tax Certificate, Other necessary documents, For further details, terms and conditions please contact Officer Incharge Medical Store PAF Airmen Academy Korangi Creek (PAAK)

PAF BASE QADRI (LOG) 0302-2014685
Hiring of Civil Transport Truck 4X4, Engine Oil OW 40, Local Purchase of High-Altitude Clothing Accessories (Snow Shoes and Thermal Vests & Trousers), Local Purchase of Tyres & Tubes for all Vehicles types, Local Purchase Lubricants all types, Local Purchase of Dry & Lead Acid Batteries for all Vehicles types (Ea As Req), Detail specifications may be obtained from OC Support Wing, PAF Base, Qadri Tel (0302-2014685 / 0355-4149440)

PAF BASE LAHORE (LOG) 042-99502287
As per PPRA Rule-36(b), 02 stage 02 envelope sealed tenders are invited from reputed GST registered firms for Oil Steering, Rando HD-68 (Hyd Oil), Transmission Oil (CD OR ATF), Engine Oil (20W-50), Diesel 15W-40 (Engine Oil Delo Gold), Oil Engine (API: ILSAC, SAE 10W 40), Gear Oil, Oil Eng (SAE API Cl-4 15W-40), Engine Oil 10W 40, Oil Gear / Diff/STR SAE 75W90, Oil Eng (API: CC,SAE 20W-50) (As Req), Interested firms are requested to collect IT documents encompassing complete technical specification / guidelines from Logistics Squadron. Any additional details, as required may be sought at Tel No 042-99502287, 0323-9428715 during working hours (0800 hrs to 1500 hrs) Tender forms complete in all respect are required to be submitted at Log Sqn of PAF Base Lahore

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

- General terms and conditions are mentioned in tender form (F-528A). Forms and tender notices complete details can be downloaded from PAF website "www.paf.gov.pk" or can be obtained from respective Bases/ Log Sqns on working days.
- The firm must be GST and professional Tax registered having NTN.
- Last date of submission of tenders: **12 NOVEMBER, 2024 (1000 hrs)**.
- Tenders will be opened on the same day at 1100 hours.
- No advance payment will be made and payment will be subject to acceptance of the items by user activity.
- Officers Commanding of the mentioned Bases/ Units reserve the right to reject any part or the entire tender on technical grounds.
- Quotations must be valid for 90 days.
- Sales Tax as applicable must be mentioned separately.
- Guarantee / Warranty term / period should also be mentioned.
- The agreement will be governed by official secret act. 1923.

NO 101 ALC, PAF BASE FAISAL (LP) 021-99547040
Heavy Duty Dot Matrix (01), Printer Laser Jet Heavy Duty (03), Details specs may be obtained from (LP Section) No 101 ALC

NO 118 SED, PAF BASE MALIR (LOG) 021-99537239
Part No: 5999PK0139594 Noun: LENS 7QP (As Req), For detail specifications, please contact No 118 SED, PAF Base Malir on Tel No 021-99537239 & 0323-9436563

PAF BASE MUSHAF (SARGODHA) (LOG) 048-5552277
Local Purchase of Tyres of SMT all Sizes, Local Purchase of All Types of Batteries (Dry/Liquid 12V 5AH to 220AH), Local Purchase of Air Conditioner 1 Ton, 1.5 Ton, 2 Ton, 4 Ton (Reverseable and Non Reverseable), Water Dispenser 05 Gln With Bottle, Electric Water Cooler (05, 10, & 25 Gln), Refrigerator/Deep Freezer (07, 08, 10, 12, 14, & 16 Cu ft), Local Purchase of All G-Shop Items, Cleaning Material, Stationary, Packing Material, Filters, Local Purchase of PPC Paper A-4 75 Gsm Imported, DO Paper A-4 80 Gsm & D O Paper 8 1/2X11, Local Purchase of Cloth Trouser PW 55:45 (2022), Local Purchase of Rags Coloured, Stock Nettle, Polish Black (45ml), Rags 1.5'x1.5' Ft, Rags Coloured (1x1 Ft), Rags Wiping Cotton, Cloth Muslin White, Local Purchase of Flash Detector, Local Purchase of Oil (Ea As Req), **Note:** Detailed Specifications can be obtained from Log Sqn Mushaf (Sargodha) on telephone 048-555-2278

PAF BASE BHOLARI (LOG) 022-9501500
DC Power Supply Pt No CPX200 Qty 01 Ea, Repair of Test Set A/C Eng (CETS) Qty 01 Ea (Toughbook CF-29 required to be replaced with CF-31), Vacuum Pump Assy Electric Pt No 2080-V108-BC430 Qty 01 Ea, 22AWG STP Cable Qty 400 Mtr, Add. (Officer In charge, Logistics Squadron, PAF Base Bholari Hyderabad {Send Via Leopard Courier Service or Pakistan Post Only Preferably 'Single Stage Two Envelope' procedure vide PPRA Rule 36(b)} For details / specifications please contact on Tel 022-9501 500 Ext 2287 and Cell No 03239431714. (All parts Nos as required or equivalent)

NO 107 AED PAF BASE FAISAL (LOG) 021-99547321
5805PK0017383 DC CARD (AC) Field Exchange (PFX DC 3208), 6625NL-281-840 Deluxe Case Kit, 110D/1ARD-R60C471K97 Metal Oxide Varistor ZNR 3.5, 088-0765-00 Switch Housing ADF Receiver KR-87, 088-0766-01 Detent Wheel ADF Receiver KR-87, 030-2331-00 Connector Display ADF Receiver KR-87, 019-07090-0000 Transformer ADF Receiver KR-87, 015-00084-0000 Battery Lithium KLX135A GPS/COM, 6625PK0217117 Heater Infant Incubator, 5805PK0017155 LCD Panel Handheld LTE Set, HTCC-220V Ceramic Heater Element INU, 6625PK0217408 Card Oscillator Spectrum Analyzer, 6625NL-00853-60063 Processor Assy Spectrum Analyzer, BT-77DBK PCB Guide Metal, 5637A Switch, SPDT, CRT OFF UFCP, 6625NL- 501050 Touchless Switch Automated Electrolyte, 6625PK0217103 Printer Assy ECG Machine (PT NO 6625NL-6511), 6625NL-99.371.521 Internal Battery Pack MG Defibrillator, H1608 IC HUD-106, 6625pk0217412 Measuring Unit EE Radio Comm Service Monitor, For further technical information, specification and company make, model, please contact : 021- 99547379

PAF BASE KALABAGH (LOG) 0992 - 355320
Hiring of Civil Transport for FY 2024-2025, Hiring Rates for (Model 1998 or above), VIP Prado TX/TZ (Model 2012 & above), Jeep 4x4, GLI, Coaster, Hiace, Mazda, Truck 1 & 3 Ton, Fork Lifter / Crane / Excavator are required from Gilgit to Naltar/Hunza, Hunza/Naltar to Gilgit, Gilgit to Khunjab Top & Back, Rawalpindi / Islamabad to Gilgit, Naltar to Rattu, Islamabad/ Kalabagh to Skardu/ Malam Jaba, Gilgit to Rawalpindi / Islamabad, Kalabagh to Kashmir, Islamabad to Skardu, Naran / Kaghan and Babusar Top, (Hiring rates with & without fuel (with driver) are separately required, **MISC Items:** POL products all types (Oils & Lubes), Printers, Scanners, Body Camera with Accessories, Networking Equipment's and accessories, Parka Suit with inner, Ethernet Switch 1000M, Engine Overhauling / Suspension work (all Types Vehicles) (Ea As Req), For any query or information please contact Tel Ext (0992) 355320, 355115 (Ext- 3881), Mobile: 0323-9418713 from 1000 hrs to 1400 hrs in working days only

PAF BASE ISLAMABAD (LOG) 051-9505556
Adapter Ant Base UHF HI Gain, Mast Extension (Tripod), Graphic Card 16 GB, Cloth Trouser PW 55:45 (2022), Processing and Analysis System, Geosurf Proxy, Netnut Proxy, Oxlabs Proxy, Kamatera VPS, Lino VPS, Linode VPS, Proxy Fish, Proxy Scrape, Proxy Way, OVH Cloud Vps, Bright Data Proxy, IPVPN, NORD VPN, Proton VPN, Benchmark VPS, Hetzner VPS, Hoshatch VPS (As Req), Note:- Separate Quotation (Technical and Financial) for each line item is required), For details / specifications / scope of work please contact Log Sqn on Ph No : 0323- 9408714, 051-9505556 , Email : Lsaq05@Paf.gov.Pk

PAF BASE NUR KHAN (LOG) 051-952-3875
Spada FCC Console (LR) Spada DC Console (LR), Electro Hydraulic Rod Blocker/Barrier, Jack Trolley 5 Ton, Environmental Hut, Load Test Up To 04 Ton (Bomb Lifter), Hiring Of Electric Fork Lifter Capacity (5-6 Ton) and Electric Cherry Picker Height Up To 32 Ft At PAF Base Nur Khan, Air Gauge T.P.G (5210011034464), Mobile Power Adopter 25 W (Charger), Engine Oil (SAE 15W40), (SAE 20W50), Gear Oil Gl-5, Brake Oil, Hydraulic Oil/Auto Transmission Fluid, Grease GP, Tellus 46 (Ea As Req), Note:- Technical Specifications for LP items and Scope of work for local repair can be obtained from Logistics Squadron, For further information please contact on (051) 952-3875

PAF BASE SHAHBAZ (LOG) 0722-670454
Engine Assembly Overhaul (ISUZU D/Cabin D-Max) (L/R) Specs: 4JU-TC HI D-MAX 3000CC, Technical & commercial quotations must be packed separately and sealed properly, Specs may be obtained from Log Sqn at 0323-9439712; 0309-



PAKISTAN AIR FORCE

OPEN TENDER NOTICES

SEALED TENDERS ARE INVITED BY THE FOLLOWING BASES / UNITS FOR THE SUPPLY / PURCHASE / REPAIR / OVERHAULING OF MENTIONED ITEMS.

DP AIR C/O PAF BASE NUR KHAN RAWALPINDI								
S. NO	IT No.	NSN / PT No / Noun	Line Item	U/I Qty	CAT	Opening Date	Time Period for Performance of Contract	Closing + Opening Time
01	415215/P-41 (Re-Tender)	Proc of Image Intensifier Tube	01	EA-01	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 04 to 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
02	415218/P-41 (Re-Tender)	Proc of A DLP-LT for Blk-II	01	EA-07	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
03	415219/P-41 (Re-Tender)	Proc of DSP Board (CS-1)	01	EA-02	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
04	424530/P-42	Batteries for NAHL-II (UG) Birds	01	EA-79	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
05	424549/P-42	UPS 1KVA for Video Conference Equipment	01	EA-25	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 03 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
06	424550/P-42	Equipment for Aerospace and Mechanical Labs at CAE (PAFAA)	03	EA-01	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 05 to 08 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
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12	436980/P-43	Proc of Analog Telephone Sets	02	EA-Var	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 03 months after signing of contract	1100 Hrs 1130 Hrs
13	436982/P-43	Proc of ICT Equipment for SOE PAAK [Basic Trg]	01	EA-07	Pak Rs	13-11-24	Within 03 months after signing of contract	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
14	436983/P-43	Proc of VVIP Intercom Exchange Along with UPSs	03	EA-Var	Pak Rs	13-11-24	Within 03 months after signing of contract	1100 Hrs 1130 Hrs
15	436984/P-43	Proc of Link Integration Gateway (CYG-II)	01	EA-01	Pak Rs	14-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1100 Hrs 1130 Hrs
16	448405/P-44	Coach AP	01	EA-12	Pak Rs	13-11-24	As per IT documents	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
17	448406/P-44	Car 1300 CC	01	EA-17	Pak Rs	14-11-24	As per IT documents	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
18	459773/P-45	Film auto Processor	01	EA-01	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
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25	467279/P-46	Vest Full Sleeve White	03	EA-10000	Pak Rs	13-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
26	467280/P-46	Vest Summer Sage Green	04	EA-10000	Pak Rs	13-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
27	467281/P-46	Vest Full Sleeve Sage Green	03	EA-12500	Pak Rs	13-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
28	467282/P-46	Quilt Single Polyester with Bag and Quilt Cover	02	EA-4000 + EA-8000	Pak Rs	14-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
29	467283/P-46	High Altitude Clothing and Snow Shoes	11	EA-Var	Pak Rs	14-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
30	467284/P-46	Toshak Cotton	01	EA-3000	Pak Rs	19-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
31	467285/P-46	Duree Small	01	EA-9000	Pak Rs	19-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
32	467286/P-46	Cloth Shirt Winter (2022)	01	MR-7000	Pak Rs	19-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
33	467287/P-46	T-Shirt (PT / Sports)	04	EA-21500	Pak Rs	19-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
34	467288/P-46	Jacket Anti-Static Airmen	02	EA-2000	Pak Rs	20-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
35	467289/P-46	Steel Trunk	01	EA-3500	Pak Rs	20-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
36	467253/P-46 (Re-Tender)	Valve Cylinder High Pressure	01	EA 125	Pak Rs	12-11-24	30 Sep, 25	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs

Contact Person / Ph No for Detail: For S. No 1 to 3 ADP-41 051-9281361, **For S. No 4 to 9** ADP-42 051-9281362, **For S. No 10 to 15** ADP-43 051-9527715, **For S. No 16 & 17** ADP-44 051-9281365, **For S. No 18 & 19** ADP-45 051-9281365, **For S. No 20 to 36** ADP-46 051-9281366

CORRIGENDUM OF ENTRIES PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS / PPRA WEBSITE

S. NO	IT NO.	NOUN	Amendment in Opening Date		PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS	REMARKS
			FOR	READ		
01	424531/P-42 (Extension)	Battery Pack (PLB-MR-509/2) For installation in PLB Radios	22-10-24	06-11-24	Daily "The Nation" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dt 23-09-24	Opening dates have been extended
02	424535/P-42 (Extension)	Magnetic Bar for FOD Sweeper Assy	22-10-24	06-11-24		
03	424536/P-42 (Extension)	Soap Machine Spectrometer with Allied Accessories	22-10-24	06-11-24		
04	424540/P-42 (Extension)	Air Conditioning Trolley Truck	23-10-24	06-11-24		
05	424542/P-42 (Extension)	Solar Aviation Taxiway Lights	23-10-24	05-11-24		
06	424544/P-42 (Extension)	Vacuum Circuit Breaker	23-10-24	05-11-24		
07	436960/P-43 (Extension)	Proc of Data Logger GPS Receiver	22-10-24	29-10-24	Daily "Frontier Post" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dt 07-10-24	
08	436961/P-43 (Extension)	Proc of Developer Work Station (AI)	22-10-24	29-10-24		
09	436964/P-43 (Extension)	Proc of Kit Items for Serial Upgrade of MPDR-60/90	23-10-24	30-10-24		
10	436965/P-43 (Extension)	Proc of Timing Module-1 (Mini JLT)	23-10-24	30-10-24		
11	436966/P-43 (Extension)	Proc of Crypto Module (LPM)	23-10-24	30-10-24		
12	459762/P-45 (Extension)	Walk Through Gate	22-10-24	05-11-24		
13	459751/P-45 (Extension)	CAP/PAD items for SAAB-2000 A/C	23-10-24	06-11-24	Daily "K2" & "Express Tribune" Dt 21-10-24	
14	467248/P-46 (Extension)	Lubricating Oil Turbine (OX-9)	17-10-24	31-10-24	Daily "The Nation" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dt 16-09-24	
15	467249/P-46 (Extension)	Fuel 100 LL	23-10-24	05-11-24	Daily "The Nation" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dt 23-09-24	

S. NO	IT NO.	NOUN	Amendment in Time Period for Performance of Contract		PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS	REMARKS
			FOR	READ		
01	467267/P-46	Aviation Jet Lubricating Oil (HP-8A)	01-07-25 To 30-06-26	31-07-25	Daily "Pakistan Observer" & "Dunya" Dt 14-10-24	Time Period for Performance of Contract has been Changed

CANCELLATION OF ENTRIES PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS / PPRA WEBSITE

S. NO	IT NO.	NOUN	Amendment in Opening Date		PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS	REMARKS
			FOR	READ		
01	436975/P-43 (Cancellation)	Proc of Servers High End for deployment of Data Fusion Solution (OSINT)	07-11-24	Cancelled	Daily "K2" & "Express Tribune" Dt 21-10-24	The case has been cancelled

<http://www.paf.gov.pk>

- Instructions / Guidelines for participating in Tenders and complete specifications can be downloaded from PAF website i.e. www.paf.gov.pk under the heading "Media" "PAF Ads" 'General Instructions DP (Air) Suppliers' (for guidelines to participate in tenders).
- ITs documents can be obtained in soft copy via request letter through e-mail address to (pa05@paf.gov.pk).
- Firms, un-registered/un-indexed with DGDP interested to participate in the competition on Earnest Money are required to provide financial capability (minimum 6 months Bank Statements) proof of go down and manufacturer / stockist, 02 photocopies of NIC of the owner in case of FOR tenders and agency agreement with OEM along with the request. Request for issuance of IT will be entertained 07 days before opening date of tender.
- A treasury Challan of Rs 2,000/- debitable to Main Head XLVII Main Head XII Sub Head A is required to be submitted by the un-registered/un-indexed firms along with the request.
- Tender Notice is also available on PPRA website i.e. www.ppra.org.pk.

PAF HOSPITAL MASROOR (MED) 021-99525309

Quotations are required from well reputed / registered contractors regarding supply of PVMS Medicines, FY 2024- 2025 to PAF Hospital Masroor, List of medicines would be collected from Medical Store PAF Hospital Masroor during working hours, Any relevant information can be obtained from Medical Store PAF Hospital, Masroor, Mobile 03068656301 and 03362447048

PAF BASE KOHAT (MED) 0922-9260092

Quotations are required for supply of PVMS NA Medicines / X Ray of 2nd Qtr FY 2024-25 of amount Rs. 1.3 Mil, Interested parties can submit their quotations in a single package containing two separate envelopes, For further details, terms and conditions please contact on 0922-9260092-3 EXT 3989

PAF BASE MALIR (LOG) 021-99533889

LP of Tyre 265/70 R16 (H2J71R-RJMRS), Hiring of following type of civil transport Vehicles, High / Low flat Bed 20', 40'and 30' feet. Container 20, 24', 30', 40' feet, From From:- Kamra, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Pasni and Skardu to Karachi, Pásni and point 'X' Karachi, From:- Karachi and Point 'X', to Kamra, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Sakardu, Pasni (Ea As Req), Note:- For detail specification, please contact Log Sqn on Tel: 021-99533889 & 0300-3930495

PAF BASE, MINHAS (MED) 051-9533901

Sealed tenders are invited for bulk purchase of medicines on institutional rates (Brand name) to Medical Squadron PAF Base, Minhas, List of medicines may be collected from Medical Store of Medical Squadron PAF Base, Minhas in working hours (0800 hours to 1430 hours), contact on Tel No:- 0519533901, Cell No:- 0334-3569414

PAF HOSP MM ALAM (MIANWALI) (MED) 0459-5319

PAF Hospital, MM Alam (Mianwali) requires Quotations from well reputed pharmaceutical / companies / contractors / supplier & distributor for purchasing of N/A Medicines and disposable items in bulk quantity, All quotations should be quoted on company letter head, List of Medicines / disposable items and any other information can be collected from Medical Store PAF Hospital, MM Alam during working hours (0900 hrs to 1400 hrs), Mobile: 0321-7610348

PAF HOSPITAL PESHAWAR 091-9210777

Invitation of Tenders for Purchase of PVMS NA Medicines / Items for 2nd Quarter of Financial Year 2024-25: Sealed tender are invited from reputable, well - experienced, financially sound and Income Tax Registered Pakistani Firms / Contractors for supplying of PVMS NA medicines / items for 2nd Qtr FY 2024-25 of amount Rs. 18,27,224/- (medicines list attached) to PAF Hospital Peshawar, Those firms which are not registered with PAF can also participate in tendering process, contact 091-9210777 Ext 3801 - 3905

PAF BASE MASROOR (LOG) 021-99522287

Adhesive Rtv 3145 Grey (310 ml), Primer 1204 (for RTV 3145), Toyota Double Cabin (installation of Armor sheets), Truck 3/5 Ton (installation of Armor sheets), Epoxy ADH, Carton Boxes (All Sizes), Promixer (CMS-1000) black (Ea As Req), Note: For further details contact Tele No.: 021-99522275, Mobile No.: 0321-9835250

PAF BASE MUSHAF (MED) 048-950-5371

Quotations are required for supply of PVMS NA Medicines 2nd Qtr (NA Items FY 2024-25), Interested parties can submit their quotations in a single stage two separate envelope: (each envelope shall contain separately the technical proposal and the financial proposal), Interested companies should have to produce following documents: PPRA compliances documents, Valid NTN Certificate, Valid Local Drug Selling License, Valid Sales Tax Registration, Professional Tax Certificate, Other necessary documents, For further details, terms and conditions please contact SMO Medical Squadron Mushaf on Tel Ext:- 048-950-5371 & 0321-7057551 (SMO, Medical Squadron Mushaf is liable to partially of fully accept or reject any of the quotation)

PAF AIRMEN ACADEMY KORANGI CREEK (MED) 0219503901

Quotations are required for supply of NA PVMS Medicines 2nd Qtr (NA Items FY 2024-25), Interested parties can submit their quotations in a single package containing two separate envelope : (each envelope shall contain separately the financial proposal and the technical proposal), Interested companies should have to produce following documents: Valid NTN Certificate, Valid Local Drug Selling License, Valid Sales Tax Registration, Professional Tax Certificate, Other necessary documents, For further details, terms and conditions please contact Officer Incharge Medical Store PAF Airmen Academy Korangi Creek (PAAK)

PAF BASE QADRI (LOG) 0302-2014685

Hiring of Civil Transport Truck 4X4, Engine Oil OW 40, Local Purchase of High-Altitude Clothing Accessories (Snow Shoes and Thermal Vests & Trousers), Local Purchase of Tyres & Tubes for all Vehicles types, Local Purchase Lubricants all types, Local Purchase of Dry & Lead Acid Batteries for all Vehicles types (Ea As Req), Detail specifications may be obtained from OC Support Wing, PAF Base, Qadri Tel (0302-2014685 / 0355-4149440)

PAF BASE LAHORE (LOG) 042-99502287

As per PPRA Rule-36(b), 02 stage 02 envelope sealed tenders are invited from reputed GST registered firms for Oil Steering, Rando HD-68 (Hyd Oil), Transmission Oil (CD OR ATF), Engine Oil (20W-50), Diesel 15W-40 (Engine Oil Delo Gold), Oil Engine (API: ILSAC, SAE 10W 40), Gear Oil, Oil Eng (SAE API Cl-4 15W-40), Engine Oil 10W 40, Oil Gear / Diff/STR SAE 75W90, Oil Eng (API: CC,SAE 20W-50) (As Req), Interested firms are requested to collect IT documents encompassing complete technical specification / guidelines from Logistics Squadron. Any additional details, as required may be sought at Tel No 042-99502287, 0323-9428715 during working hours (0800 hrs to 1500 hrs) Tender forms complete in all respect are required to be submitted at Log Sqn of PAF Base Lahore

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

- General terms and conditions are mentioned in tender form (F-528A). Forms and tender notices complete details can be downloaded from PAF website "www.paf.gov.pk" or can be obtained from respective Bases/ Log Sqns on working days.
- The firm must be GST and professional Tax registered having NTN.
- Last date of submission of tenders: **12 NOVEMBER, 2024 (1000 hrs)**.
- Tenders will be opened on the same day at 1100 hours.
- No advance payment will be made and payment will be subject to acceptance of the items by user activity.
- Officers Commanding of the mentioned Bases/ Units reserve the right to reject any part or the entire tender on technical grounds.
- Quotations must be valid for 90 days.
- Sales Tax as applicable must be mentioned separately.
- Guarantee / Warranty term / period should also be mentioned.
- The agreement will be governed by official secret act. 1923.

NO 101 ALC, PAF BASE FAISAL (LP) 021-99547040

Heavy Duty Dot Matrix (01), Printer Laser Jet Heavy Duty (03), Details specs may be obtained from (LP Section) No 101 ALC

NO 118 SED, PAF BASE MALIR (LOG) 021-99537239

Part No: 5999PK0139594 Noun: LENS 7QP (As Req), For detail specifications, please contact No 118 SED, PAF Base Malir on Tel No 021-99537239 & 0323-9436563

PAF BASE MUSHAF (SARGODHA) (LOG) 048-5552277

Local Purchase of Tyres of SMT all Sizes, Local Purchase of All Types of Batteries (Dry/Liquid 12V 5AH to 220AH), Local Purchase of Air Conditioner 1 Ton, 1.5 Ton, 2 Ton, 4 Ton (Reverseable and Non Reverseable), Water Dispenser 05 Gln With Bottle, Electric Water Cooler (05, 10, & 25 Gln), Refrigerator/Deep Freezer (07, 08, 10, 12, 14, & 16 Cu ft), Local Purchase of All G-Shop Items, Cleaning Material, Stationary, Packing Material, Filters, Local Purchase of PPC Paper A-4 75 Gsm Imported, DO Paper A-4 80 Gsm & D O Paper 8 1/2X11, Local Purchase of Cloth Trouser PW 55:45 (2022), Local Purchase of Rags Coloured, Stock Nette, Polish Black (45ml), Rags 1.5'x1.5' Ft, Rags Coloured (1x1 Ft), Rags Wiping Cotton, Cloth Muslin White, Local Purchase of Flash Detector, Local Purchase of Oil (Ea As Req), **Note:** Detailed Specifications can be obtained from Log Sqn Mushaf (Sargodha) on telephone 048-555-2278

PAF BASE BHOLARI (LOG) 022-9501500

DC Power Supply Pt No CPX200 Qty 01 Ea, Repair of Test Set A/C Eng (CETS) Qty 01 Ea (Toughbook CF-29 required to be replaced with CF-31), Vacuum Pump Assy Electric Pt No 2080-V108-BC430 Qty 01 Ea, 22AWG STP Cable Qty 400 Mtr, Add. (Officer In charge, Logistics Squadron, PAF Base Bholari Hyderabad {Send Via Leopard Courier Service or Pakistan Post Only Preferably 'Single Stage Two Envelope' procedure vide PPRA Rule 36(b)} For details / specifications please contact on Tel 022-9501 500 Ext 2287 and Cell No 03239431714. (All parts Nos as required or equivalent)

NO 107 AED PAF BASE FAISAL (LOG) 021-99547321

5805PK0017383 DC CARD (AC) Field Exchange (PFX DC 3208), 6625NL-281-840 Deluxe Case Kit, 110D/1ARD-R60C471K97 Metal Oxide Varistor ZNR 3.5, 088-0765-00 Switch Housing ADF Receiver KR-87, 088-0766-01 Detent Wheel ADF Receiver KR-87, 030-2331-00 Connector Display ADF Receiver KR-87, 019-07090-0000 Transformer ADF Receiver KR-87, 015-00084-0000 Battery Lithium KLX135A GPS/COM, 6625PK0217117 Heater Infant Incubator, 5805PK0017155 LCD Panel Handheld LTE Set, HTCC-220V Ceramic Heater Element INU, 6625PK0217408 Card Oscillator Spectrum Analyzer, 6625NL-00853-60063 Processor Assy Spectrum Analyzer, BT-77DBK PCB Guide Metal, 5637A Switch, SPDT, CRT OFF UFCP, 6625NL- 501050 Touchless Switch Automated Electrolyte, 6625PK0217103 Printer Assy ECG Machine (PT NO 6625NL-6511), 6625NL-99.371.521 Internal Battery Pack MG Defibrillator, H1608 IC HUD-106, 6625pk0217412 Measuring Unit EE Radio Comm Service Monitor, For further technical information, specification and company make, model, please contact : 021- 99547379

PAF BASE KALABAGH (LOG) 0992 - 355320

Hiring of Civil Transport for FY 2024-2025, Hiring Rates for (Model 1998 or above), VIP Prado TX/TZ (Model 2012 & above), Jeep 4x4, GLI, Coaster, Hiace, Mazda, Truck 1 & 3 Ton, Fork Lifter / Crane / Excavator are required from Gilgit to Naltar/Hunza, Hunza/Naltar to Gilgit, Gilgit to Khunjab Top & Back, Rawalpindi / Islamabad to Gilgit, Naltar to Rattu, Islamabad/ Kalabagh to Skardu/ Malam Jaba, Gilgit to Rawalpindi / Islamabad, Kalabagh to Kashmir, Islamabad to Skardu, Naran / Kaghan and Babusar Top, (Hiring rates with & without fuel (with driver) are separately required, **MISC Items:** POL products all types (Oils & Lubes), Printers, Scanners, Body Camera with Accessories, Networking Equipment's and accessories, Parka Suit with inner, Ethernet Switch 1000M, Engine Overhauling / Suspension work (all Types Vehicles) (Ea As Req), For any query or information please contact Tel Ext (0992) 355320, 355115 (Ext- 3881), Mobile: 0323-9418713 from 1000 hrs to 1400 hrs in working days only

PAF BASE ISLAMABAD (LOG) 051-9505556

Adapter Ant Base UHF HI Gain, Mast Extension (Tripod), Graphic Card 16 GB, Cloth Trouser PW 55:45 (2022), Processing and Analysis System, Geosurf Proxy, Netnut Proxy, Oxlabs Proxy, Kamatera VPS, Lino VPS, Linode VPS, Proxy Fish, Proxy Scrape, Proxy Way, OVH Cloud Vps, Bright Data Proxy, IPVPN, NORD VPN, Proton VPN, Benchmark VPS, Hetzner VPS, Hoshatch VPS (As Req), Note:- Separate Quotation (Technical and Financial) for each line item is required), For details / specifications / scope of work please contact Log Sqn on Ph No : 0323- 9408714, 051-9505556 , Email :



PAKISTAN AIR FORCE

OPEN TENDER NOTICES

SEALED TENDERS ARE INVITED BY THE FOLLOWING BASES / UNITS FOR THE SUPPLY / PURCHASE / REPAIR / OVERHAULING OF MENTIONED ITEMS.

DP AIR C/O PAF BASE NUR KHAN RAWALPINDI								
S. NO	IT No.	NSN / PT No / Noun	Line Item	U/I Qty	CAT	Opening Date	Time Period for Performance of Contract	Closing + Opening Time
01	415215/P-41 (Re-Tender)	Proc of Image Intensifier Tube	01	EA-01	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 04 to 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
02	415218/P-41 (Re-Tender)	Proc of A DLP-LT for Blk-II	01	EA-07	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
03	415219/P-41 (Re-Tender)	Proc of DSP Board (CS-1)	01	EA-02	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
04	424530/P-42	Batteries for NAHL-II (UG) Birds	01	EA-79	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
05	424549/P-42	UPS 1KVA for Video Conference Equipment	01	EA-25	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 03 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
06	424550/P-42	Equipment for Aerospace and Mechanical Labs at CAE (PAFAA)	03	EA-01	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 05 to 08 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
07	424551/P-42	Pre-Fabricated Containers	01	EA-06	Pak Rs	13-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
08	424552/P-42	Superseder Battery Charger	01	EA-04	Pak Rs	13-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
09	424553/P-42	Oxygen / Air / Nitrogen Trolley Spares	02	EA-Var	Pak Rs	13-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
10	436978/P-43	Proc of Spares for TACAN NM-7000 & 2010 and VOR	10	EA-Var	FE	27-11-24	Within 04 to 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
11	436979/P-43	Proc of Timing Module / High Dynamic Satellite Receiver	01	EA-01	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 08 months after signing of contract	1100 Hrs 1130 Hrs
12	436980/P-43	Proc of Analog Telephone Sets	02	EA-Var	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 03 months after signing of contract	1100 Hrs 1130 Hrs
13	436982/P-43	Proc of ICT Equipment for SOE PAAK [Basic Trg]	01	EA-07	Pak Rs	13-11-24	Within 03 months after signing of contract	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
14	436983/P-43	Proc of VVIP Intercom Exchange Along with UPSs	03	EA-Var	Pak Rs	13-11-24	Within 03 months after signing of contract	1100 Hrs 1130 Hrs
15	436984/P-43	Proc of Link Integration Gateway (CYG-II)	01	EA-01	Pak Rs	14-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1100 Hrs 1130 Hrs
16	448405/P-44	Coach AP	01	EA-12	Pak Rs	13-11-24	As per IT documents	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
17	448406/P-44	Car 1300 CC	01	EA-17	Pak Rs	14-11-24	As per IT documents	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
18	459773/P-45	Film auto Processor	01	EA-01	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
19	459774/P-45	Emergency Light H/ Held (Torch)	01	EA-1400	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
20	467272/P-46	Suit Case Aircrew	01	EA-308	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
21	467275/P-46	Sunglasses	06	PR-1174	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
22	467276/P-46	Sand Bags	01	EA-290521	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
23	467277/P-46	PAF Tag CD	01	EA-50000	Pak Rs	12-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
24	467278/P-46	Belt Broad Combat Dress	07	EA-10000	Pak Rs	13-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
25	467279/P-46	Vest Full Sleeve White	03	EA-10000	Pak Rs	13-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
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28	467282/P-46	Quilt Single Polyester with Bag and Quilt Cover	02	EA-4000 + EA-8000	Pak Rs	14-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
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32	467286/P-46	Cloth Shirt Winter (2022)	01	MR-7000	Pak Rs	19-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
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34	467288/P-46	Jacket Anti-Static Airmen	02	EA-2000	Pak Rs	20-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
35	467289/P-46	Steel Trunk	01	EA-3500	Pak Rs	20-11-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs
36	467253/P-46 (Re-Tender)	Valve Cylinder High Pressure	01	EA 125	Pak Rs	12-11-24	30 Sep, 25	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs

Contact Person / Ph No for Detail: For S. No 1 to 3 ADP-41 051-9281361, **For S. No 4 to 9** ADP-42 051-9281362, **For S. No 10 to 15** ADP-43 051-9527715, **For S. No 16 & 17** ADP-44 051-9281365, **For S. No 18 & 19** ADP-45 051-9281365, **For S. No 20 to 36** ADP-46 051-9281366

CORRIGENDUM OF ENTRIES PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS / PPRA WEBSITE						
S. NO	IT NO.	NOUN	Amendment in Opening Date		PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS	REMARKS
			FOR	READ		
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02	424535/P-42 (Extension)	Magnetic Bar for FOD Sweeper Assy	22-10-24	06-11-24	Daily "Frontier Post" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dt 07-10-24	
03	424536/P-42 (Extension)	Soap Machine Spectrometer with Allied Accessories	22-10-24	06-11-24		
04	424540/P-42 (Extension)	Air Conditioning Trolley Truck	23-10-24	06-11-24		
05	424542/P-42 (Extension)	Solar Aviation Taxiway Lights	23-10-24	05-11-24		
06	424544/P-42 (Extension)	Vacuum Circuit Breaker	23-10-24	05-11-24		
07	436960/P-43 (Extension)	Proc of Data Logger GPS Receiver	22-10-24	29-10-24		
08	436961/P-43 (Extension)	Proc of Developer Work Station (AI)	22-10-24	29-10-24		
09	436964/P-43 (Extension)	Proc of Kit Items for Serial Upgrade of MPDR-60/90	23-10-24	30-10-24		
10	436965/P-43 (Extension)	Proc of Timing Module-1 (Mini JLT)	23-10-24	30-10-24		
11	436966/P-43 (Extension)	Proc of Crypto Module (LPM)	23-10-24	30-10-24		
12	459762/P-45 (Extension)	Walk Through Gate	22-10-24	05-11-24		
13	459751/P-45 (Extension)	CAP/PAD items for SAAB-2000 A/C	23-10-24	06-11-24	Daily "K2" & "Express Tribune" Dt 21-10-24	
14	467248/P-46 (Extension)	Lubricating Oil Turbine (OX-9)	17-10-24	31-10-24	Daily "The Nation" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dt 16-09-24	
15	467249/P-46 (Extension)	Fuel 100 LL	23-10-24	05-11-24	Daily "The Nation" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dt 23-09-24	

S. NO	IT NO.	NOUN	Amendment in Time Period for Performance of Contract		PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS	REMARKS
			FOR	READ		
01	467267/P-46	Aviation Jet Lubricating Oil (HP-8A)	01-07-25 To 30-06-26	31-07-25	Daily "Pakistan Observer" & "Dunya" Dt 14-10-24	Time Period for Performance of Contract has been Changed

CANCELLATION OF ENTRIES PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS / PPRA WEBSITE						
S. NO	IT NO.	NOUN	Amendment in Opening Date		PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS	REMARKS
			FOR	READ		
01	436975/P-43 (Cancellation)	Proc of Servers High End for deployment of Data Fusion Solution (OSINT)	07-11-24	Cancelled	Daily "K2" & "Express Tribune" Dt 21-10-24	The case has been cancelled

<http://www.paf.gov.pk>

- Instructions / Guidelines for participating in Tenders and complete specifications can be downloaded from PAF website i.e. www.paf.gov.pk under the heading "Media" "PAF Ads" 'General Instructions DP (Air) Suppliers' (for guidelines to participate in tenders).
- ITs documents can be obtained in soft copy via request letter through e-mail address to (pa05@paf.gov.pk).
- Firms, un-registered/un-indexed with DGDP interested to participate in the competition on Earnest Money are required to provide financial capability (minimum 6 months Bank Statements) proof of go down and manufacturer / stockist, 02 photocopies of NIC of the owner in case of FOR tenders and agency agreement with OEM along with the request. Request for issuance of IT will be entertained 07 days before opening date of tender.
- A treasury Challan of Rs 2,000/- debitable to Main Head XLVII Main Head XII Sub Head A is required to be submitted by the un-registered/un-indexed firms along with the request.
- Tender Notice is also available on PPRA website i.e. www.ppra.org.pk.

PAF HOSPITAL MASROOR (MED) 021-99525309

Quotations are required from well reputed / registered contractors regarding supply of PVMS Medicines, FY 2024- 2025 to PAF Hospital Masroor, List of medicines would be collected from Medical Store PAF Hospital Masroor during working hours, Any relevant information can be obtained from Medical Store PAF Hospital, Masroor, Mobile 03068656301 and 03362447048

PAF BASE KOHAT (MED) 0922-9260092

Quotations are required for supply of PVMS NA Medicines / X Ray of 2nd Qtr FY 2024-25 of amount Rs. 1.3 Mil, Interested parties can submit their quotations in a single package containing two separate envelopes, For further details, terms and conditions please contact on 0922-9260092-3 EXT 3989

PAF BASE MALIR (LOG) 021-99533889

LP of Tyre 265/70 R16 (H2J71R-RJMRS), Hiring of following type of civil transport Vehicles, High / Low flat Bed 20', 40'and 30' feet. Container 20, 24', 30', 40' feet, From From:- Kamra, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Pasni and Skardu to Karachi, Pásni and point 'X' Karachi, From:- Karachi and Point 'X', to Kamra, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Sakardu, Pasni (Ea As Req), Note:- For detail specification, please contact Log Sqn on Tel: 021-99533889 & 0300-3930495

PAF BASE, MINHAS (MED) 051-9533901

Sealed tenders are invited for bulk purchase of medicines on institutional rates (Brand name) to Medical Squadron PAF Base, Minhas, List of medicines may be collected from Medical Store of Medical Squadron PAF Base, Minhas in working hours (0800 hours to 1430 hours), contact on Tel No:- 0519533901, Cell No:- 0334-3569414

PAF HOSP MM ALAM (MIANWALI) (MED) 0459-5319

PAF Hospital, MM Alam (Mianwali) requires Quotations from well reputed pharmaceutical / companies / contractors / supplier & distributor for purchasing of N/A Medicines and disposable items in bulk quantity, All quotations should be quoted on company letter head, List of Medicines / disposable items and any other information can be collected from Medical Store PAF Hospital, MM Alam during working hours (0900 hrs to 1400 hrs), Mobile: 0321-7610348

PAF HOSPITAL PESHAWAR 091-9210777

Invitation of Tenders for Purchase of PVMS NA Medicines / Items for 2nd Quarter of Financial Year 2024-25: Sealed tender are invited from reputable, well - experienced, financially sound and Income Tax Registered Pakistani Firms / Contractors for supplying of PVMS NA medicines / items for 2nd Qtr FY 2024-25 of amount Rs. 18,27,224/- (medicines list attached) to PAF Hospital Peshawar, Those firms which are not registered with PAF can also participate in tendering process, contact 091-9210777 Ext 3801 - 3905

PAF BASE MASROOR (LOG) 021-99522287

Adhesive Rtv 3145 Grey (310 ml), Primer 1204 (for RTV 3145), Toyota Double Cabin (installation of Armor sheets), Truck 3/5 Ton (installation of Armor sheets), Epoxy ADH, Carton Boxes (All Sizes), Promixer (CMS-1000) black (Ea As Req), Note: For further details contact Tele No.: 021-99522275, Mobile No.: 0321-9835250

PAF BASE MUSHAF (MED) 048-950-5371

Quotations are required for supply of PVMS NA Medicines 2nd Qtr (NA Items FY 2024-25), Interested parties can submit their quotations in a single stage two separate envelope: (each envelope shall contain separately the technical proposal and the financial proposal), Interested companies should have to produce following documents: PPRA compliances documents, Valid NTN Certificate, Valid Local Drug Selling License, Valid Sales Tax Registration, Professional Tax Certificate, Other necessary documents, For further details, terms and conditions please contact SMO Medical Squadron Mushaf on Tel Ext:- 048-950-5371 & 0321-7057551 (SMO, Medical Squadron Mushaf is liable to partially of fully accept or reject any of the quotation)

PAF AIRMEN ACADEMY KORANGI CREEK (MED) 0219503901

Quotations are required for supply of NA PVMS Medicines 2nd Qtr (NA Items FY 2024-25), Interested parties can submit their quotations in a single package containing two separate envelope : (each envelope shall contain separately the financial proposal and the technical proposal), Interested companies should have to produce following documents: Valid NTN Certificate, Valid Local Drug Selling License, Valid Sales Tax Registration, Professional Tax Certificate, Other necessary documents, For further details, terms and conditions please contact Officer Incharge Medical Store PAF Airmen Academy Korangi Creek (PAAK)

PAF BASE QADRI (LOG) 0302-2014685

Hiring of Civil Transport Truck 4X4, Engine Oil OW 40, Local Purchase of High-Altitude Clothing Accessories (Snow Shoes and Thermal Vests & Trousers), Local Purchase of Tyres & Tubes for all Vehicles types, Local Purchase Lubricants all types, Local Purchase of Dry & Lead Acid Batteries for all Vehicles types (Ea As Req), Detail specifications may be obtained from OC Support Wing, PAF Base, Qadri Tel (0302-2014685 / 0355-4149440)

PAF BASE LAHORE (LOG) 042-99502287

As per PPRA Rule-36(b), 02 stage 02 envelope sealed tenders are invited from reputed GST registered firms for Oil Steering, Rando HD-68 (Hyd Oil), Transmission Oil (CD OR ATF), Engine Oil (20W-50), Diesel 15W-40 (Engine Oil Delo Gold), Oil Engine (API: ILSAC, SAE 10W 40), Gear Oil, Oil Eng (SAE API Cl-4 15W-40), Engine Oil 10W 40, Oil Gear / Diff/STR SAE 75W90, Oil Eng (API: CC,SAE 20W-50) (As Req), Interested firms are requested to collect IT documents encompassing complete technical specification / guidelines from Logistics Squadron. Any additional details, as required may be sought at Tel No 042-99502287, 0323-9428715 during working hours (0800 hrs to 1500 hrs) Tender forms complete in all respect are required to be submitted at Log Sqn of PAF Base Lahore

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

- General terms and conditions are mentioned in tender form (F-528A). Forms and tender notices complete details can be downloaded from PAF website "www.paf.gov.pk" or can be obtained from respective Bases/ Log Sqns on working days.
- The firm must be GST and professional Tax registered having NTN.
- Last date of submission of tenders: **12 NOVEMBER, 2024 (1000 hrs)**.
- Tenders will be opened on the same day at 1100 hours.
- No advance payment will be made and payment will be subject to acceptance of the items by user activity.
- Officers Commanding of the mentioned Bases/ Units reserve the right to reject any part or the entire tender on technical grounds.
- Quotations must be valid for 90 days.
- Sales Tax as applicable must be mentioned separately.
- Guarantee / Warranty term / period should also be mentioned.
- The agreement will be governed by official secret act. 1923.

NO 101 ALC, PAF BASE FAISAL (LP) 021-99547040

Heavy Duty Dot Matrix (01), Printer Laser Jet Heavy Duty (03), Details specs may be obtained from (LP Section) No 101 ALC

NO 118 SED, PAF BASE MALIR (LOG) 021-99537239

Part No: 5999PK0139594 Noun: LENS 7QP (As Req), For detail specifications, please contact No 118 SED, PAF Base Malir on Tel No 021-99537239 & 0323-9436563

PAF BASE MUSHAF (SARGODHA) (LOG) 048-5552277

Local Purchase of Tyres of SMT all Sizes, Local Purchase of All Types of Batteries (Dry/Liquid 12V 5AH to 220AH), Local Purchase of Air Conditioner 1 Ton, 1.5 Ton, 2 Ton, 4 Ton (Reverseable and Non Reverseable), Water Dispenser 05 Gln With Bottle, Electric Water Cooler (05, 10, & 25 Gln), Refrigerator/Deep Freezer (07, 08, 10, 12, 14, & 16 Cu ft), Local Purchase of All G-Shop Items, Cleaning Material, Stationary, Packing Material, Filters, Local Purchase of PPC Paper A-4 75 Gsm Imported, DO Paper A-4 80 Gsm & D O Paper 8 1/2X11, Local Purchase of Cloth Trouser PW 55:45 (2022), Local Purchase of Rags Coloured, Stock Nettle, Polish Black (45ml), Rags 1.5'x1.5' Ft, Rags Coloured (1x1 Ft), Rags Wiping Cotton, Cloth Muslin White, Local Purchase of Flash Detector, Local Purchase of Oil (Ea As Req), **Note:** Detailed Specifications can be obtained from Log Sqn Mushaf (Sargodha) on telephone 048-555-2278

PAF BASE BHOLARI (LOG) 022-9501500

DC Power Supply Pt No CPX200 Qty 01 Ea, Repair of Test Set A/C Eng (CETS) Qty 01 Ea (Toughbook CF-29 required to be replaced with CF-31), Vacuum Pump Assy Electric Pt No 2080-V108-BC430 Qty 01 Ea, 22AWG STP Cable Qty 400 Mtr, Add. (Officer In charge, Logistics Squadron, PAF Base Bholari Hyderabad {Send Via Leopard Courier Service or Pakistan Post Only Preferably 'Single Stage Two Envelope' procedure vide PPRA Rule 36(b)} For details / specifications please contact on Tel 022-9501 500 Ext 2287 and Cell No 03239431714. (All parts Nos as required or equivalent)

NO 107 AED PAF BASE FAISAL (LOG) 021-99547321

5805PK0017383 DC CARD (AC) Field Exchange (PFX DC 3208), 6625NL-281-840 Deluxe Case Kit, 110D/1ARD-R60C471K97 Metal Oxide Varistor ZNR 3.5, 088-0765-00 Switch Housing ADF Receiver KR-87, 088-0766-01 Detent Wheel ADF Receiver KR-87, 030-2331-00 Connector Display ADF Receiver KR-87, 019-07090-0000 Transformer ADF Receiver KR-87, 015-00084-0000 Battery Lithium KLX135A GPS/COM, 6625PK0217117 Heater Infant Incubator, 5805PK0017155 LCD Panel Handheld LTE Set, HTCC-220V Ceramic Heater Element INU, 6625PK0217408 Card Oscillator Spectrum Analyzer, 6625NL-00853-60063 Processor Assy Spectrum Analyzer, BT-77DBK PCB Guide Metal, 5637A Switch, SPDT, CRT OFF UFCP, 6625NL- 501050 Touchless Switch Automated Electrolyte, 6625PK0217103 Printer Assy ECG Machine (PT NO 6625NL-6511), 6625NL-99.371.521 Internal Battery Pack MG Defibrillator, H1608 IC HUD-106, 6625pk0217412 Measuring Unit EE Radio Comm Service Monitor, For further technical information, specification and company make, model, please contact : 021- 99547379

PAF BASE KALABAGH (LOG) 0992 - 355320

Hiring of Civil Transport for FY 2024-2025, Hiring Rates for (Model 1998 or above), VIP Prado TX/TZ (Model 2012 & above), Jeep 4x4, GLI, Coaster, Hiace, Mazda, Truck 1 & 3 Ton, Fork Lifter / Crane / Excavator are required from Gilgit to Naltar/Hunza, Hunza/Naltar to Gilgit, Gilgit to Khunjab Top & Back. Rawalpindi / Islamabad to Gilgit, Naltar to Rattu, Islamabad/ Kalabagh to Skardu/ Malam Jaba, Gilgit to Rawalpindi / Islamabad, Kalabagh to Kashmir, Islamabad to Skardu, Naran / Kaghan and Babusar Top, (Hiring rates with & without fuel (with driver) are separately required, **MISC Items:** POL products all types (Oils & Lubes), Printers, Scanners, Body Camera with Accessories, Networking Equipment's and accessories, Parka Suit with inner, Ethernet Switch 1000M, Engine Overhauling / Suspension work (all Types Vehicles) (Ea As Req), For any query or information please contact Tel Ext (0992) 355320, 355115 (Ext- 3881), Mobile: 0323-9418713 from 1000 hrs to 1400 hrs in working days only

PAF BASE ISLAMABAD (LOG) 051-9505556



PESHAWAR: Special Advisor to Chief Minster for Prisons, Hamayun Khan along with Minister for Higher Education Meena Khna and Special Advisor to CM Abdul Karim Tordher offering dua after planting a sampling during their visit to Central Jail Peshawar.

Govt to take various steps for prisoners’ welfare

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to take various measures for the welfare of the prisoners and in this regard, it has been directed to take measures for the digital marketing of various handicrafts and hand-made items made by the prisoners inside the jails. It has also been directed to establish liaison between the technical education department and prisons for necessary technical training courses in various fields. In this way, it has been directed to standardize the food items provided to the prisoners and improve its menu and also work on digitalization of rates. It has also been assured homework on skilled inmates who have received training in prison for employment after their release under the Ehsaas Youth Program loan scheme while arranging online classes for various technical courses for the inmates.

In this connection, Special Assistant to KP CM on Prisons Humayun Khan, Provincial Minister for Higher Education Meena Khan Afridi, and Minister for Social Welfare Syed Qasim Ali Shah and Special Assistant to Chief Minister on Industries, Commerce and Technical Education Abdul Karim Tordhir jointly visited Central Jail Peshawar on Thursday. They held a meeting with authorities of prisons. Member of National Assembly Asif Khan, Members of Provincial Assembly, Inspector General of Jails Usman Mehsud, Superintendent of Jails and other officers of Jails and officials of other departments were also present on the occasion. On this occasion, they were given a detailed briefing, while they also met the prisoners in the barracks, besides inspecting the leather industry, handicrafts, embroidery, handicrafts and other hand-made items, training and business places and showed keen interest in his work.

During the visit, the Special Assistants and Provincial Ministers awarded certificates to the skilled prisoners who received technical training and expressed good wishes for their bright future. During the briefing, the Special Assistant for Prisons said that the provincial government wants to bring positive reforms for the welfare of the prisoners so that all the human facilities are available to the prisoners.

He said that in this regard, amendments are being under consideration in the jail rules while keeping in mind the necessary requirements. He said that the department should identify the improvements in the existing rules in this regard, which the government will implement.

Training for Social Service Workforce concludes

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 27th October 2024 - In a significant step towards enhancing child protection and welfare in the Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, two-day capacity-building trainings for the Social Service Workforce (SSWF) have successfully concluded in seven merged districts (Kurram, Khyber, Bajaur, Mohmand, North Waziristan, South Waziristan and Orakzai). The district level social service workforce participated in a structured two-day training held at each district.

In the context of Child Protection, Social Service Workforce forms a critical subset of the broader social service workforce, sharing the same goal to care, support, promote rights and empower vulnerable people and with a focus on preventing and responding to violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation against children through preventative, responsive and promotive programmes.

The primary objectives of these two-day district-level trainings were to establish a comprehensive understanding of existing child protection service frameworks and foster collaboration with other social service sectors.

Industrial fire exposes urgent need for effective response: Ghulam Ali



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali voiced deep concern and regret following a major fire that destroyed Deans Industry, a factory producing children's diapers and disposable items, causing losses worth billions in Hayatabad Industrial Estate. Visiting the site, he highlighted the critical need for strengthening emergency response capabilities, stressing that such delays in fire control undermine business confidence and future investment in the region.

During his visit to the fire-ravaged factory, Haji Ghulam Ali, joined by notable figures including Fazal Elahi, Bakhtiar Khan (President of Hayatabad Industrial Association), and Sarhad Business Alliance co-chairpersons Muhammad Ishaq, Syed Siraj-ud-Din, Atta-ur-Rehman, Ghulam Bilal Javid (President of Peshawar Traders Chamber), Tariq Rana, and former president Faisal Kakakhail, reviewed the extent of the damage and met with factory owner Haji Sher Muhammad. Local stakeholders briefed him on the financial losses, amounting to billions, and the prolonged 20-hour firefighting delay.

Former Governor Ghulam Ali remarked, "If, in this era, we remain unable to control a fire for over 20 hours, how can we attract and assure investors of a secure environment?" He emphasized the global advances in firefighting technologies, contrasting them with local limitations, and stressed that rescue agencies must be well-equipped to minimize both human and financial losses in emergencies.

He urged the provincial government to extend substantial support to the affected factory owners and workers, who now face immense financial and personal hardship. Expressing his condolences to the factory owners, he pledged his full support to help them recover from this devastating loss.

Fiery trial in Hayatabad - A tribute to valor and unity

Izmi Herlani

THE sun was shining bright over Hayatabad, casting a warm golden hue across the industrial state, when chaos erupted. A thick plume of smoke rose ominously into the sky, darkening the once-peaceful horizon. The acrid smell of burning materials filled the air and the sound of sirens pierced through the evening calm. A factory, which had once been a hub of productivity and promise, was engulfed in flames. I stood on the rooftop of my Uncle's home, a mere witness to this heart-wrenching scene unfolding just beyond our doorstep.

As I watched, the brave firefighters from Rescue 1122 rushed to the scene, their faces grim yet determined. Their dedication was palpable, as they battled the inferno with everything they had. Yet, the fire was relentless; it roared and crackled, consuming everything in its path. The flames seemed to dance with a life of their own, taunting the efforts of the courageous men who stood before it. Despite their unwavering resolve, it became increasingly clear that this was no ordinary fire. The blaze grew larger, and the surrounding area was soon shrouded in a thick veil of smoke. It was a scene of desperation, as the firemen struggled against the overwhelming odds. It was at this moment, when hope seemed to flicker like a dying ember, that the call for assistance echoed throughout the air-help was needed, and who better to answer that call than the noble personnel of Pakistan Air Force?

In a matter of minutes PAF personnel, known for their bravery and swift response in times of calamity, arrived on the scene like Sentinels descending from the Sky. These brave heroes, trained to confront peril and adversity, descended upon the burning site with a sense of urgency and purpose. Watching them in action was nothing short of awe-inspiring.

As the PAF personnel coordinated with the civil firemen, a glimmer of hope emerged for all of us watching the entire scene from our houses amidst the chaos. They utilized their resources, deploying fire hydrants with precision and skill. I could see the determination etched on their faces, a fierce commitment to protect not only the property but also the lives of those who worked within the factory walls. It was a moment that reminded me of the indomitable spirit of our nation-When We Come Together, We Can Face Even the Fiercest of Storms.

The scene was both heart-wrenching and uplifting. The flames continued to rage, but with the combined efforts of Rescue 1122 and Pakistan Air Force, a sense of control began to take shape. I watched as the PAF firefighters, clad in their uniforms, worked tirelessly alongside their civilian counterparts. Each drop of water released from the fire hoses felt like a testament to their dedication and bravery. They were not just fighting a fire; they were fighting for their fellow citizens, for the lives, dreams and futures that were at stake.



River Swat diverted at 800MW Mohmand Dam

PESHAWAR (APP): Achieving a significant milestone in construction of the Mohmand Dam, the flow of River Swat was diverted through an 1800 meters tunnel while speedy work on another Flood Management Tunnel was underway.

Project Director and General Manager of WAPDA, Asim Rauf Khan, along with Chief Engineer Fasih Ullah, while talking to media confirmed the diversion of the Swat River as part of the ongoing Mohmand Dam project.

The project director informed that approximately 35% of the dam construction is complete, with 98% of the tunnel work finished.

Mohmand Dam on its completion, is expected to generate 800 megawatts of electricity annually. The dam's completion is scheduled for 2027.

It has a capacity to store 1.29 million acre-feet of water, assist flood control, generate affordable electricity, and supply Peshawar city with 300 million gallons of drinking water daily.

With its structural design, Mohmand Dam will be the world's fifth tallest and Pakistan's highest dam.

It will form an artificial reservoir capable of storing 1.3 million acre-feet of water.

The seven-gate dam is expected to generate over 2,800 gigawatts of electricity annually and protect Charsadda and Nowshera districts from flood risks.

The dam will make 16,000 acres of land cultivable and supply Peshawar with 460 cusecs of drinking water. Its estimated annual benefits are around Rs51.6 billion.

The construction of the dam has affected only 87 households. About 99% of the land required for the project, approximately 8,688 acres, has been acquired.

However, officials indicated that the rising dollar rate may lead to increased project costs.

Blood donation camp organized

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Hamza Foundation organized a successful one-day public blood donation camp, led by Mr. Khurshid Khan. Following an inspiring speech by Mr. Hassan Gul, our Resource Mobilization Officer, 15 dedicated volunteers stepped forward to donate blood, helping to save the lives of 1,502 patients with Thalassemia and Hemophilia registered with Hamza Foundation.

Mr. Ijaz Ali Khan, Founder Chairman of Hamza Foundation, expressed his gratitude for Mr. Khurshid Khan's support and commended the unwavering commitment of our volunteer donors in the service of humanity.

Black Day: Kashmir bleeds

Farhan Khan

DAWNED the day of August the 5th, 2019 with a treacherous shadow hovering over the heads of the people of Indian Occupied Kashmir (IoK) as the fascist government of Narendra Modi stripped them off their right to self-determination - the right that was given to them before the partition of the sub-continent whether to remain independent or to announce accession either to Pakistan or India - through an amendment in the Indian constitution by revoking Article 370. Considered by India herself and her blue-eyed stakeholders a "temporary provision" in the Indian Constitution, Article 370 was the only hope of Kashmiris prophesying their freedom as it granted IoK sovereignty in all matters but defense, foreign affairs and communications. Albeit; the people of princely state of IoK have been subjected to marginalization from day first when Maharaja Hari Singh - on the lame pretext of preventing Pakistan's tribal invasions - signed an instrument of accession to India crushing beneath his feet Kashmiri's right to plebiscite in broad day light, the revocation of Article 370 was a desperate attempt of India to put the last nail in the coffin. Not only this; but with the revocation of Article 370, India also erased from the face of the earth the significance of United Nations (UN) by disparaging UN Security Council Resolution 47 (1948) categorically which includes the plebiscite among other points. In yet another frantic attempt to integrate IoK with herself, India has now changed rules of quota in jobs, issuing domiciles and buying lands aimed at bringing demographic changes in the Muslim majority region as anyone from the entire country can apply for jobs, obtaining domiciles and purchase lands in the state. With the abrogation of Article 370 of the constitution, Muslims have lost the previous level of political participation and freedom in IoK as direct rule of India causes the people of Jammu and Kashmir to have no longer their own government and amend or legislate laws to protect their rights and freedom - whatever the degree of freedom they had.

The abrogation of Article 370 sparked widespread reaction across IoK with protests and demonstrations against the revocation. Shutdowns and strikes were also observed in the Kashmir valley, but the Indian forces resorted to excessive use of force (beatings, mistreatment, and use of pellet guns, tear gas and live ammunitions) against demonstrators to subdue them. Restrictions were imposed on movement, assembly and gatherings and communication sources including the internet and mobile phone services were shut down to confine freedom of expression and access to information. Thousands of people including politicians, freedom activists and civilians were arbitrarily arrested and sent behind the bars without charges and denied access to justice, free trials and legal representation. Hundreds of people were taken away by the Indian security forces without disclosure of their whereabouts while women were subjected to sexual harassment and intimidation and children to psychological trauma. The whole valley suffered from humanitarian crisis as delivery of food, medicines and essential supplies wasn't possible due to the restrictions imposed by India. On top of that, censorship was placed on media and journalism to restrict reporting on the crimes the Indian forces committed in IoK.

The Muslim and world leaders including the United Nations Secretary General, several members of UK parliament and US lawmakers, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch expressed concerns over the situation in IoK. Some also called for investigations into the crimes of Indian forces and raising voice for humanitarian aid in the valley. However; instead of mere lip service, its now time for the UN in particular and the Muslim leaders and the world stakeholders in general to take concrete steps to resolve the matter in accordance with the aspirations of Kashmiris to bring an end to their plight. Because the basic question still remains unanswered whether or not the UN has lived up to its responsibility regarding legitimate and basic human rights of the people of Kashmir. The responsibility rests with the UN as the Security Council Resolution (47) 1948 clearly asks both the countries to withdraw their forces from Kashmir adding the issue be resolved through ballot paper allowing the people of Kashmir to decide whether to join either Pakistan or India or remain independent. Pakistan while complying with the Resolution, withdrew her forces while India did not even bother to budge regarding withdrawal of her security forces. The Indian security forces not only remained in the valley but New Delhi also changed the special status of IoK denying the people of Kashmir sovereignty in certain matters if not all. The UN along with other stakeholders should in real essence step in for the resolution of the matter or else the Indian brutality and barbarism in the IoK could endanger peace in the entire world because the people of Kashmir would stop at nothing until and unless they achieve their freedom for a nation spare no sacrifice for its sovereignty. The unwavering efforts and sacrifices of the people of Kashmir would bear fruits someday, God willing. Rest assured, Pakistan has always supported the cause of Kashmiris at every forum across the globe and will stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Kashmir through every thick and thin because Kashmir is the jugular vein of Pakistan.

Saifullah family greets Justice Yahya Afridi

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Salim Saifullah Khan, former Senator and Federal Minister, along with Mr. Humayun Saifullah Khan, Mr. Anwar Saifullah Khan, Mr. Javed Saifullah Khan, and Dr. Iqbal Saifullah Khan have extended their warmest congratulations to Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi on his appointment as the 30th Chief Justice of Pakistan, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

The appointment of Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi is a proud moment not just for the judiciary but also for the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, his home province. His journey of excellence, marked by profound legal acumen and an unwavering commitment to the principles of justice, has been an inspiration to many. This milestone highlights his dedication, integrity, and remarkable judicial prudence, which have earned him the trust and respect of the legal community and the nation at large.

"We are immensely proud to see Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi assume the prestigious role of Chief Justice of Pakistan. His exemplary service and distinguished career reflect his steadfast commitment to upholding the Constitution and the rule of law. His appointment is a source of immense pride for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and we are confident that his tenure will be marked by fairness, integrity, and judicial independence," said Mr. Salim Saifullah Khan.

The Saifullah Khan family wished Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi every success in his new role, believing that his leadership will strengthen the foundations of justice in Pakistan and inspire confidence in the judiciary's commitment to the fairness, transparency, and the rule of law.

VETS concludes 4-day campaign against smoky buses

PESHAWAR (APP): On the directives of the Secretary Transport and Director Transport, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa the Vehicle Emission Testing Station (VETS) carried out a four-day emission checking campaign against the smoking and old buses of the private schools. For this purpose, three teams comprising the experts of VETS Peshawar and Motor Vehicles Examiner along with a mobile testing laboratory were deployed on various roads of the district to check the emission system of the buses of private schools. During the campaign more than 300 buses of the private schools were checked out of which more than 200 were issued with warnings while the documents of over 52 vehicles were confiscated.



In brief

Kashmir Black Day observed
F.P. Report

KOHAT: Like other parts of the country, the entire Kohat division also observed a Black Day on Sunday, the 27th October against India's illegal occupation of Kashmir under the program "Awami Agenda" of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The biggest and main event in this regard was organized in District Council Hall Kohat in which Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah participated as a chief guest. A large number of people belonging to different walks of life participated in the ceremony. Students presented speeches and poems on the occasion. Speaking at the ceremony, Commissioner Kohat Motasim Billah Shah said that the government and people of Pakistan will continue their moral, political and diplomatic support till the complete independence of Kashmir. He said, the day is not far when Kashmiris will break the chains of slavery and breathe in the free air of their own will. Later, a walk was organized in which slogans were raised in favor of the brothers and sisters of Occupied Kashmir and the United Nations was also demanded for a fair solution to this long-standing issue.

DC leads rally

HYDERABAD (INP): Like other parts of the country, a massive rally led by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Zain ul Aabdin Memon was taken out in Hyderabad to mark Kashmir's Black Day. The rally was taken from the Shahbaz Building to the Post Master General Office. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad said that Kashmiris have been suffering oppression by India for 77 years. The people of Pakistan are with Kashmiris against the violation of human rights so that the entire world can be shown the insidious face of India. He said that the people of Pakistan will stand with Kashmiris on every forum till the independence of Kashmir and that is what Pakistan is demanding. According to the United Nations resolution, Kashmiris should be given the right to self-determination.

Kashmir Black Day in Hafizabad
F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Black Day observed against illegal occupation and brutality of India on people of unlawful occupied Kashmir and expressed solidarity with oppressed people of the Indian occupied Kashmir. In this connection, black flags were hoisted at government offices and a rally was taken out from District complex led by Deputy Commissioner Abdul Razaq. Participants of the rally were chanting slogans and carrying black flags, banners and flexes inscribed with slogans against oppression committed by India on oppress people of Indian Held Kashmir. While addressing the participants of the rally, DC urged the United Nations to play its result-oriented role to give right of self-determination to the people of occupied Kashmir so that oppressed people of held Kashmir could decide their fate according to own aspirations. Meanwhile, another rally also taken out under auspices of Education Department led by Chief Executive Officer Education Hafizabad Nazia Shahzadi and DEO Muhammad Anwar Javed.

Authorities directed to start work on Talash Bypass Road

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Taking notice of public complaints, the Lower Dir deputy commissioner Muhammad Arif Khan along with additional deputy commissioner finance and planning Gauhar Ali and subdivisional officer Highways on Sunday visited the under construction Kalpani Talash bypass road.

The visiting teams examined the current situation of the road. The DC expressed his dissatisfaction on the unnecessary delay in construction of the much awaited bypass road. He directed the Highways authorities to start work on culverts and then complete the project according to the PC-I.

The 10-kilometer long Kalpani Talash bypass road had been under construc-

tion since 2016. The land owners had been paid the compensation amount while a portion of the road had been blacktopped years ago.

The road is yet to be completed despite the lapse of eight years while its estimated cost had surged manifold. The concerned contractors have stopped work on the project due to lack of funds.

The road, bypassing five bazaars in Talash, would be used by transport bound for Upper Dir, Bajaur, Chitral and upper parts of the Lower Dir district once completed.

BLOOD FEUD RESOLVED: A local jirga of elders resolved a two-year old blood feud between two families at Khaima village of Balambat here on Sunday. A function in this regard

was held at the hujra of Farooq Iqbal Yousafzai during which the rivals forgave each other unconditionally.

One Kachkol was killed when his rivals had opened firing on him two years ago.

The function was addressed by Malik Farooq Iqbal, former district nazim Muhammad Rasool Khan, SHO Balambat Ayub Khan, Malik Khaista Khan and others.

They said that petty disputes always led to violence and killings because of ignorance when societies did not intervene. The speakers said that jirga played a key role in resolving serious issues out of court.

They appreciated the parties the members of which embraced and forgave each other.

Protest ends in front of Nishpa Oil Field Karak

F.P. Report

KOHAT: Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah has said that providing basic facilities to the people under the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Program "Awami Agenda" is the first priority adding that no leniency or neglect will be tolerated.

He while giving a timeline to complete the work on gasification, directed the authorities concerned to complete the remaining work at the earliest. He also

gave instructions to speed up the process of meterization in Karak so that legal gas can be provided to the people.

These views he expressed during a meeting with the residents of Nishpa Block who were protesting against low gas pressure.

It may be recalled that the protestors had closed the OGDCL gate and the supply of gas and oil was stopped due to which the people of the area were suffering and the national treasury was suffering severe damage.

Deputy Commissioner Karak Shakeel Ahmed Jan was also with him. He held successful talks with the protestors, after which the protestors opened the OGDCL gate.

Motasim Billah Shah said that the Awami Agenda is an important program of the provincial government under which basic facilities are being provided to the people at all levels.

He announced that the doors of his offices are always open for the public and they can come anytime regarding their problems.

Black Day of Kashmir observed in Hub

QUETTA (APP): Like other parts of the country, October 27 was observed as a black day in solidarity with the Kashmiri brothers in Balochistan and in this connection a rally was organized on the direction of

District Administration Hub. The participants of the rally holding banners and placards chanted slogans against Indian atrocity in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), said a news

release. The participants of the rally strongly condemned the cruelty and violence against the Kashmiri people and reiterate their determination to continue supporting their right to self-determination.



HYDERABAD: People crossing railway track as the train approaches which may cause serious accident.

South Punjab needs sustainable practices for well-being of inhabitants

MULTAN (APP): Rapid urbanization and massive population influx to urban areas posed multiple challenges to cities managers in sustaining populace load and ensuring uninterrupted provision of civic amenities to residents.

Over the period urbanization emerged as a global phenomenon with cities swelling and swelling thus resulting in shrinking facilities and overburdened civic departments with Pakistan also not being an exception to this tendency.

Many cultural regions and cities are fast losing their vitality with even preserved heritage under extreme pressure of urbanization besides usage of rich agricultural land for abruptly erecting housing societies and residential colonies.

Urban growth also poses challenges like pollution and waste generation, cleanliness and hygiene, social inequities and above all infrastructure development as witnessed in South Punjab region. But, when it

is a planned growth with areas properly developed, the situation is entirely different.

Rich in cultural heritage and natural resources, this region faces multiple social, geographical and economic challenge urgently needing sustainable practices for well-being of inhabitants as abrupt urbanization brings with it a glut of hardships.

Comprising Multan, Bahawalpur and Dera Ghazi Khan divisions' South Punjab is home to a diverse population but unchecked urbanization has shrunk its resources and urban centers suffer poor infrastructure, lack of public transport systems, inefficient waste management, water scarcity, air pollution and overall environmental degradation.

"Urbanization in Pakistan is accelerating rapidly with projections that urban population could surpass 50% by 2025," stated Qaswar Abbas, Director Urban Planning, Multan Development Authority

(MDA). "It is a serious challenge as rapid growth affects infrastructure, develops slums, enhance traffic load, overburden sewerage system and finally making the living conditions unhygienic."

He said this phenomenon also results in inequalities putting social stability at risk, creates water and sanitation crisis and spread diseases.

The World Cities Report 2021 by UN-Habitat highlights sustainable urbanization in shaping resilient, inclusive and prosperous cities as the global shift towards urban living reckons that over 56% of the world's population was living in cities by 2020.

Highlighting opportunities and risks associated with rapid urbanization, the UN-Habitat report encourages governments and stakeholders to pursue inclusive urban planning, invest in green infrastructure and enhance social safety nets to foster equitable and sustainable cities. It also calls for urgent glob-



KOHAT: Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah addressing the ceremony to mark Kashmir Black Day.

Kashmir Black Day observed
F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Like other parts of the province, different functions were held in parts of the Lower Dir district to mark the 'Kashmir Black Day' here on Sunday. The district administration in collaboration with the youth affairs, sports departments and Timergara municipal administration organized a function at the district assembly hall to mark the day. Representatives and officials of various government departments and civil society, teachers, students, volunteers of civil defense, social activists and area elders attended the function. The participants also observed one minute silence to show solidarity with the Kashmiri brothers.

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Arif Khan led a 'Kashmir Solidarity' walk at Timergara. The participants carrying banners and placards, walked on the road from the district secretariat to Balambat Chowk.

The National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) also arranged a function and walk at Chakdara to observe the Kashmir Black Day.

The NCHD assistant director Muhammad Asad Khan and additional assistant commissioner Syed Sardar Badshah led the walk, the participants of which were carrying banners and placards inscribed with slogans in favour of Kashmiris.

Jaffar for investment in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail said that Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) to take advantage of lucrative investment opportunities in Balochistan and it can create a sustainable growing economy that benefits all provinces.

In a meeting with the representatives of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Governor House Quetta, he said that attention should be paid for boosting of border trade, establishment of border markets, ensuring affordable power supply and taking guidance from economic experts to enhance economic activities in the country.

Jaffar Khan said the incumbent government is committed to provide full protection to all local and international investors and create ease to industrialists, said a news release.

On this occasion,

Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail said that Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) is the largest business forum of the country and hailed the coming of leading businessmen and industrialists from across the country to the provincial capital Quetta which would yield constructive and positive results.

He said the country's economy will be strengthened by the establishment of industrial zones in different divisions of Balochistan.

He urged the business community to help and guide the Balochistan government in creating vast opportunities for economic development in Balochistan, eliminating unemployment and making possible access to the economic and trade markets of Central Asia including neighboring countries.

Jaffar Khan said the government is committed to boost economic activity,

identify the challenges facing by the business community and protect the interests of the private sector.

Jaffar Khan Mandokhail said that people associated with industry and trade can play an important role in improving the agriculture and irrigation system in Balochistan and creating employment opportunities.

He urged the officials of FPCCI to utilize the knowledge and experience of scientists and experts of our public sector universities in research and development.

He stressed that it is important to understand the objective conditions of each district of the province and prepare targeted solutions for long-term development and prosperity.

Governor Mandokhail said that greater mutual understanding is necessary to facilitate and create new opportunities for the business community.

He said that "We can create a bright economic future through joint efforts and consultation".

Imran to spend winter in jail: Manzoor Wasan

KHAIRPUR (INP): Senior Vice President of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Sindh and former provincial home minister Manzoor Hussain Wasan has said

Imran Khan is in big trouble, and it seems that after spending the summer in jail he will also spend the winter in jail.

Talking to the media during the visit of the newly constructed Pakistan Law College in Khairpur, Manzoor Wasan said the provisions of the 18th constitutional amendment are also included in the 26th

constitutional amendment. Manzoor Hussain Wasan said the 26th constitutional amendment does not harm anyone, including the judiciary and the people.

The accusation of being with the establishment on PPP is wrong, Manzoor Hussain Wasan said.

PPP is a pro-democratic party, and we are with the people and will remain with the people, Manzoor Hussain Wasan added.

He said the Sindh government is active in maintaining peace and order in the province.

We do not support the construction of six new canals from the Indus River in the areas of Punjab, Manzoor Hussain Wasan said.

Manzoor Wasan said by establishing new educational institutions, education will flourish, and education-loving people should pay attention to opening educational institutions. He said the history of the past tells us that Khairpur has been a masterpiece of a scientific and literary city since ancient times.

Sukkur observes Oct 27 as 'Black Day'

SUKKUR (APP): Like the rest of the country, Sukkur also observed October 27 as 'Black Day' on Sunday. The district administration organized a solidarity rally to express unity with the Kashmiris and protest against India's occupation and atrocities in occupied Kashmir. The rally, led by Assistant Commissioner City Sobia Falak Rao and Assistant Commissioner Rohri Labiq Akram, started from the Municipal Stadium and ended at the Sukkur Press Club. A large number of citizens, teachers, students, lawyers, and political and social activists participated in the rally. The participants of the rally raised slogans against Indian atrocities and human rights violations in occupied Kashmir.

like parks, urban forests and wetlands can mitigate environmental degradation occurring due to urbanization," he said.

"Green spaces reduce urban heat and pollution, improve biodiversity and contribute to residents' wellbeing."

He emphasizes cities inclusiveness with green environment and pollution control leading to a better quality of life. "Partnerships between governments, private sector and communities are crucial for successful urban development."

Several cities around the globe offer valuable lessons in sustainable urban planning like Curitiba in Brazil for developing bus rapid transit to reduce pollution and load on infrastructure and Singapore for water conservation practices.

Therefore, initiatives like desalination, wastewater treatment and rainwater harvesting can contribute much in sustainable urban planning if our city managers have workable

solutions in their minds.

"Wastewater recycling and efficient irrigation techniques can help save water. Cities like Multan and Bahawalpur should prioritize water-sensitive urban designs to minimize runoff and encourage water conservation," stated Arif Abbas, Director Works, Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Multan.

He said WASA has launched water and sanitation schemes worth millions of rupees here in Multan through funding of Asian Development Bank (ADB) and situation would improve in near future.

Amidst all these challenges, the top city managers hope better days ahead as for their establishment of South Punjab Secretariat was a leap forward for addressing region's problems.

"Financial and administrative autonomy of South Punjab is helping us in making effective and responsive decisions at local level," remarked Fawad Hashmi, Additional

Chief Secretary at South Punjab Secretariat. "We are working on region's development under a comprehensive program. We have no shortage of emerging opportunities for growth and development."

It is imperative to mention that past follies of the city planners aggravated our problems as licenses and authorities were issued blindly to housing societies' developers least bothering of the planning and amenities, they were going to offer to their residents.

Moreover, they were not asked to develop connecting infrastructure for their societies and consequently, they earned billions of rupees but roads and other infrastructure was left for respective governments to construct.

Therefore, the federal and provincial have an onus now to tighten noose around them and ask to contribute in infrastructure development instead of spending precious tax money of poor people for their benefit.



DUBAI: Hussain Muhammad, Consul General speaking during an event organized to observe Kashmir Black Day.

Japan’s ruling party braces for a blow in parliamentary elections

TOKYO (AP): Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba’s conservative ruling party braced for a blow to its majority in the lower house of parliament in Sunday’s elections as a result of public rage over financial scandals and discontent over a stagnant economy.

According to exit polls by NHK public television, Ishiba’s Liberal Democratic Party is certain to lose its majority in the 465-seat house, the more powerful of Japan’s two-chamber parliament. It’s still unclear if his ruling coalition with junior partner Komeito can retain a majority.

The results could weaken Ishiba’s grip on power and if he can’t get his party’s policies through parliament, he may need to find a third partner.

“The results so far have been extremely severe, and we take them very seriously,” Ishiba told NHK. “I believe the voters are telling us to reflect more (on the financial wrongdoing) and become a party that lives up to their expectations.”

If his ruling coalition loses a majority, Ishiba said, the LDP will still lead a ruling coalition and tackle key policies and compile a planned supplementary budget while pursuing political reform further. He indicated that the LDP is open to cooperating with opposition groups if that suits the public’s expectations.

Ishiba took office on

Oct. 1, replacing Fumio Kishida, who resigned after failing to pacify the public over widespread slush fund practices among Liberal Democratic Party lawmakers. Ishiba immediately ordered a snap election in hopes of shoring up support by using his outspoken, reformist image.

A total of 1,344 candidates, including a record 314 women, are running for office. Early results are expected within hours.

Ishiba has set a goal of retaining a majority of 233 seats for the ruling coalition between the LDP and Buddhist-backed Komeito. NHK exit polls indicated that the LDP was expected to win between 153 and 219 seats, down sharply from the comfortable majority of 247 it held previously. Komeito was expected to win 21 to 35 seats.

Ishiba, in his final speeches Saturday in Tokyo, apologized over his party’s mishandling of funds and said only the LDP’s ruling coalition can responsibly run Japan with its experience and dependable policies.

Once a popular politician known for criticism of even his own party’s policies, Ishiba has also seen support for his weeks-old Cabinet plunge.

The biggest opposition party, the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, is led by centrist leader Yoshihiko Noda who briefly served as prime minister during the LDP’s 2009-2012 descent from

power.

Noda’s party is expected to make significant gains, with exit polls suggesting a huge increase to as many as 191 seats from 98. Noda says Sunday’s election is a rare chance for a change of government, which will be the most effective political reform, though his party has trouble finding other opposition groups with which to cooperate.

At a downtown Tokyo polling station early Sunday, a number of voters said they had considered the corruption scandal and economic measures in deciding how to vote. But analysts say Ishiba’s LDP was expected to remain the top party in Japan’s parliament as voters are skeptical about the opposition’s ability and inexperience.

“The public’s criticisms against the slush funds scandal has intensified, and it won’t go away easily,” said Izuru Makihara, a University of Tokyo professor of politics and public policy. “There is a growing sense of fairness and people are rejecting privileges for politicians.” Makihara suggested Ishiba needs bold political reform measures to regain public trust.

Ishiba pledged to revitalize the rural economy, address Japan’s falling birth rate and bolster defense. But his Cabinet has old faces, only two women and was seen as alienating members of the faction led by late premier Shinzo Abe. Ishiba quickly retreated from earlier sup-

port for a dual surname option for married couples and legalizing same-sex marriage, an apparent compromise to the party’s influential ultra-conservatives.

His popularity fell because of “the gap in what the public expected him to be as prime minister versus the reality of what he brought as prime minister,” said Rintaro Nishimura, a political analyst at The Asia Group.

The LDP is also being tested Sunday for its ability to break from the legacy of Abe, whose policies focused on security, trade and industry but largely ignored equality and diversity, and its nearly eight-year-long rule led to the corruption, experts say.

There could be regrouping attempts among opposition parties to decide whether to cooperate among themselves or join the ruling coalition, political watchers say.

Potential new partners for the LDP include the Democratic Party of the People, a breakaway group from the CPDJ, which calls for lower taxes, and the conservative Japan Innovation Party, though both are currently rejecting any possible coalition with the LDP.

The LDP is less cohesive than previously and could enter the era of short-lived prime ministers. Ishiba is expected to last at least until the ruling bloc approves key budget plans at the end of December.

Indonesian forests pay the price for the growing global biomass energy demand



JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP): Enormous swathes of pristine forest are being cut down across Indonesia to supply the rapidly rising international demand for biomass material seen as critical to many countries’ transitions to cleaner forms of energy.

Nearly all of the biomass from forests destroyed for wood pellet production since 2021 has been shipped to South Korea and Japan. The Associated Press found in an examination of satellite images, company records and Indonesian export data. Both countries have provided millions of dollars to support the development of biomass production and use in Indonesia.

Indonesia’s state-run utility also has plans to dramatically increase the amount of biomass it burns to make electricity.

Experts and environmentalists fear the rising international and domestic

demand, coupled with weak domestic regulation, will accelerate deforestation at the same time it prolongs the use of highly polluting fossil fuels. Biomass is organic material like plants, wood and waste, and many coal-fired power plants can be easily modified to burn it alongside coal to make energy. “Biomass production — which is only recently starting to be seen on an industrial scale in Indonesia — is a dire new threat to the country’s forests,” said Timer Manurung, director of Auriga Nusantara, an environmental and conservation organization in Indonesia.

As countries accelerate their energy transitions, demand for biomass is growing: The use of bioenergy has increased an average of about 3 percent per year between 2010 and 2022, the International Energy Agency said.

Experts including the

IEA say it’s important for that demand to happen in a sustainable way, such as using waste and crop residue rather than converting forest land to grow bioenergy crops. Deforestation contributes to erosion, damages biodiversity areas, threatens wildlife and humans who rely on the forest and intensifies disasters from extreme weather.

And many scientists and environmentalists have rejected the use of biomass altogether. They say burning wood-based biomass can emit more carbon than coal and tree-cutting greatly reduces forests’ ability to remove carbon from the atmosphere. Critics also say that using biomass to co-fire, instead of transitioning directly to clean energy, simply prolongs the use of coal. In Indonesia, biomass production is causing deforestation across the archipelago.

Auriga Nusantara

reports that more than 9,740 hectares (24,070 acres) of forest have been cleared in areas where biomass production is permitted since 2020. Permits have been issued for over 1.4 million hectares (3,459,475 acres) of energy plantation forests in Indonesia, with over one-third of that land being undisturbed forest. Over half of these concession areas are the habitat of flagship species such as sumatran rhino, elephants, orangutans and tigers, said Manurung.

In the carbon-rich forests of Gorontalo, Sulawesi, the felling, shredding and shipping of old trees to make energy-dense wood pellets has been streamlined. Over 3,000 hectares (7,410 acres) of forest have been razed in a concession owned by Banyan Tumbuh Lestari, from 2021 to 2024, according to satellite analysis shared with AP by international environmental organization Mighty Earth. An additional 2,850 hectares (7,040 acres) were cleared for logging roads.

After trees are cut down, they’re turned into wood pellets at a facility near the concessions owned by Biomasa Jaya Abadi, the largest exporter of wood pellets from Indonesia from 2021-2023, according to data Auriga Nusantara compiled from the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry database. The database has no records of wood pellet exports prior to 2020.

Georgia’s crucial vote was marred by intimidation, European monitors say

TBILISI, Georgia (AP): European observers said Sunday that Georgia’s election took place in a “climate of hatred and intimidation” with multiple election violations and cases of violence, undermining the outcome of the vote that could decide the country’s future in Europe.

The country’s Central Election Commission said the ruling Georgian Dream won 54.8% of Saturday’s vote with almost all the ballots counted. Following a divisive pre-election campaign, initial figures suggested turnout is the highest since the ruling party was first elected in 2012.

There were multiple concerns about the conduct of the election, including “the widespread climate of pressure, and party-organized intimidation,” vote buying and the impartiality of state institutions, said Julian Bulai, head of the PACE delegation monitoring the polls.

Georgian Dream has become increasingly authoritarian over the past year, adopting laws similar to those used by Russia to crack down on freedom of speech. Brussels suspended Georgia’s EU membership process indefinitely because of a “Russian law,” passed in June. Many Georgians viewed Saturday’s vote as a referendum on the opportunity to join the European Union.

During the campaign, Georgian Dream used

“anti-Western and hostile rhetoric ... promoted Russian misinformation, manipulations, and conspiracy theories,” said Antonio Lopez-Isturiz White, the head of the European Parliament monitoring delegation.

“Paradoxically, the government further claimed that it was continuing Georgia’s European integration,” he added.

The conduct of the polls, he said, is more evidence that points to the ruling party’s “democratic backsliding.”

Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze on Sunday described Georgian Dream’s victory as “impressive and obvious,” and said “any attempts to talk about election manipulation ... are doomed to failure.”

Georgian electoral observers, who were stationed across the country, also reported multiple violations and said the results do not reflect “the will of the Georgian people.”

In the capital Tbilisi, Tiko Gelashvili, 32, said, “The results that were published are just lies and rigged.”

Bidzina Ivanishvili, the billionaire founder of Georgian Dream who made his fortune in Russia, claimed victory almost immediately after polls closed Saturday.

“It is rare in the world for the same party to achieve such success in such a difficult situation,”

he said. He had vowed ahead of the election to ban opposition parties should his party win.

Tina Bokuchava, the chair of the United National Movement opposition party, accused the election commission of carrying out Ivanishvili’s “dirty order” and said that he “stole the victory from the Georgian people and thereby stole the European future.”

She indicated the opposition would not recognize the results and “will fight like never before to reclaim our European future.”

The UNM party said its headquarters was attacked on Saturday while Georgian media reported two people were hospitalized after being assaulted outside polling stations.

“The most important question is whether or not these elections will be recognized by the international community,” said Natia Seskuria, executive director of the Regional Institute for Security Studies in Tbilisi. Georgia’s “economic and political prospects” hinge on the election, she said.

Many Georgians are concerned the EU may close the door on them and fear the country will be more vulnerable to Russia if Georgian Dream remains in power, she said.

Georgians have a complex relationship with Russia, which ruled over it from Moscow until

Georgia gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Russia and Georgia fought a short war in 2008, and Moscow still occupies 20% of Georgia’s territory.

Despite that, Georgian Dream has adopted Russia-style laws and many Georgians fear the government is distancing the country from the West and into Moscow’s orbit.

The election observers said instances of intimidation and electoral violations were particularly noticeable in rural areas.

Georgian Dream scored its highest share of the vote — polling almost 90% — in the Javakheti region of southern Georgia, 135 kilometers (83 miles) west of the capital Tbilisi, where it got less than 44% of the vote in any district.

The region is predominantly agricultural and many people are ethnic Armenians who speak Armenian, Russian and limited Georgian. Before the election, the AP traveled to the region where voters suggested they were instructed how to vote by local officials. Several questioned why Georgia needed a relationship with Europe and suggested it would be better off allied with Moscow.

Around 80% of Georgians favor joining the EU, according to polls, and the country’s constitution obliges its leaders to pursue membership in that bloc and NATO.

Syria Kurd force denies links to Ankara attack as Turkiye strikes

HASAKEH (AFP): The commander of a Kurdish-led force in Syria denied links to a deadly attack near Ankara claimed by Kurdish PKK militants, after Turkish strikes on Kurd-held Syria killed more than a dozen people in retaliation.

Turkiye carried out air strikes against targets linked to Kurdish militants in Iraq and Syria after Wednesday’s shooting and suicide attack that killed five people at a defense firm near the Turkish capital.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the attackers infiltrated from neighboring Syria, vowing there would be no let-up in the fight against Kurdish militants.

“We opened an internal investigation and I can confirm that none of the attackers entered Turkiye from Syrian territory,” Mazloum Abdi, the head of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) told AFP.

The SDF is a US-backed force that spearheaded fighting against the Daesh group in its last Syria strongholds before its territorial defeat in 2019.

It is dominated by the Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG), viewed by Ankara as an offshoot of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) which claimed the attack on Ankara.

“We have no connection to this attack that took place in Ankara,” Abdi said late Saturday from Hasakah, a major city run by the semi-autonomous Kurdish administration in northeast Syria.

“Our battlefields are inside Syrian territory,” he added. Turkish strikes on Kurd-held Syria since Wednesday have killed 15 civilians and two fighters, according to Abdi.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, said Turkiye has launched more than 100 strikes, most of them using drones, since Wednesday.

It said civilian infrastructure including bakeries, grain silos and power stations were hit alongside military facilities and checkpoints used by Kurdish forces.

“It seems that (Turkiye’s) goal is not just to respond to the events

that took place in Ankara, but also to target institutions and sources of livelihood for the population,” said Abdi.

“The main goal is to weaken and eliminate the (semi) autonomous administration, forcing the population to migrate,” he said.

Abdi said he was open to dialogue to de-escalate tensions but demanded an end to Turkiye’s attacks which he said are “ongoing” and suggest a potentially wider operation.

“We are ready to resolve issues with Turkiye through dialogue, but not under the pressure of attacks, so these operations must be stopped for dialogue efforts to continue,” Abdi said.

Turkish troops and allied rebel factions control swathes of northern Syria following successive cross-border offensives since 2016, most of them targeting the SDF.

“The Turkish state is taking advantage of the current events in the Middle East, as attention is directed toward Gaza, Lebanon and the Israeli attack on Iran” to launch new attacks on Syria, Abdi

said.

Abdi criticized his US allies for not protecting Kurdish forces, saying the position of the US-led coalition “seems weak.”

The United States has about 900 troops in Syria as part of an anti-jihadist coalition. “Their response is not at the level required to stop the attacks, and pressure must be put on Turkiye,” he added, saying the strikes on Syria “not only concern us but also affect their forces.”

The US presidential election on November 5 could also weaken support for the SDF if Donald Trump is elected, according to Abdi.

In 2019, Trump announced a decision to withdraw thousands of US troops from Kurdish-held Syria, paving the way for Turkiye to launch an invasion there that same year.

“In 2019, we had an unsuccessful experience with the administration of US President Trump,” said the SDF commander.

“But we are confident that the United States... makes its decisions based on” strategic interests in the region.

Bolivia’s Morales says vehicle hit by gunfire as tension flares

LA PAZ (Reuters): Bolivia’s Evo Morales said on Sunday his vehicle was hit by gunfire captured in a video, reflecting how political tensions have turned violent in the Andean nation between the former leader and his once ally President Luis Arce.

Morales posted a video on Facebook taken from inside a moving car, showing him sitting in the front passenger seat and at least two bullet holes in the windshield. The driver appeared to have been injured. Morales wrote that the government was to blame.

Reuters could not independently verify the contents of the video or Morales’ claim. The government did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The incident and claims could spark further unrest and instability in the South American nation, at a time of already high tensions with Morales supporters blocking key highways and clashing with security forces trying to clear them.

In a radio interview after

the incident, Morales said two vehicles intercepted him on the road and fired upon his car, claiming a bullet passed “centimeters” from his head.

“I don’t know if they were soldiers or police,” Morales said.

On Saturday, the government had criticized Morales for “destabilizing” the country with two weeks of road blockades that have jammed up supplies of food and fuel around the country. It accused him of trying to “interrupt democratic

order.”

The government in a statement also said some groups allied to Morales were armed and warned about violence, citing 14 police officers wounded trying to break up the blockades.

Morales and Arce, his former economy minister, are both part of the same socialist MAS political party, but have clashed increasingly over the last year, part of a power struggle ahead of 2025 elections.

The country is also grap-

pling with dwindling gas production, drained foreign currency reserves and rising inflation, which is heaping pressure on the ruling party and leading to increasingly messy political infighting.

Morales is also facing allegations that he had relationships with minors. He was formally summoned by regional prosecutors to testify in the case but did not appear, and now faces an arrest warrant. Morales strongly denies the accusations.



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Budget shortfall hits UN climate body

THE leading UN body on climate change is experiencing a severe budget shortfall, according to a Reuters analysis of documents from the world body – a funding gap that diplomats said could impair international climate dialogue.

The analysis found a budget hole of at least 57 million euros (\$61.53 million) for 2024 – or nearly half of the funding needed for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat to run annual climate negotiations among nearly 200 countries and to help implement any agreements that are made.

Budgets set out for the UNFCCC span two years. Its total 2024-2025 budget – the body's three main budget lines combined – is for 240 million euros, with about half of that expected to be allocated for this year.

The UNFCCC's member countries signed off on the budget and are expected to contribute the funds. The budget includes a core fund into which these countries are obligated to contribute, a supplementary fund drawing voluntary donations, and another voluntary fund to help diplomats from poorer countries attend UN climate negotiations. While a handful of countries such as Japan and Germany have exceeded their payment obligations, others – notably the United States and China, the world's two biggest economies and the top emitters of greenhouse gases – have not yet met theirs.

Contributions are due on Jan.1 each year. The secretariat, set up under the 1992 UNFCCC treaty, is the world's key body for coordinating international efforts to reduce climate-warming emissions and staging summits where countries can hold one another accountable.

The budget shortfall has forced it to curtail activities – from reducing operating hours at its headquarters in Bonn, Germany, to cancelling regional "climate week" events this year. Those regional summits in countries such as Kenya and Malaysia last year raised billions of dollars in investment pledges from governments, investors and philanthropies for renewable energy, reforestation and other climate-focused projects.

"We continue to work relentlessly, but our resources are increasingly over-stretched," said a UNFCCC spokesperson, who asked not to be named, in response to the Reuters analysis.

Germany's climate envoy Jennifer Morgan urged countries to find a solution.

As of this month, the UNFCCC had received 63 million euros (\$68 million) in contributions for 2024.

Officials in the United States and China said the countries would make their payments this year but did not specify when. State Department spokesperson Melvin Felix said the United States "still intends to provide a substantial contribution" to support the secretariat this year. The Chinese foreign ministry said China "will fulfil its obligations as always." As of October, the United States still owed 7.3 million euros to the UNFCCC's 2024 core budget, though it has contributed 2.5 million euros to its supplementary budget. China still owed 5.6 million euros to the core budget, though it has contributed 497,000 euros to the supplementary fund.

Even if both countries meet their obligations this year, it would not be enough to cover the hole in the UNFCCC's overall budget.

Countries can be delayed in meeting the payment deadline for logistical reasons, for example if national budget cycles do not run on a calendar year or if payments need additional legislative approval. National elections also can cause delays.

The Reuters analysis showed that, in past years, these issues typically were resolved before October – and that this year's delays are by far the worst in UNFCCC history, in terms of the amount of the overall budget still missing.

The UNFCCC budget has more than doubled from its level of around 102 million euros spanning 2014 and 2015 amid a flurry of new global climate deals.

Reuters spoke with more than a dozen diplomats involved in UN climate negotiations, as well as with UNFCCC representatives. Most spoke anonymously. Eight of the diplomats expressed concern that the funding gap could undermine UN climate negotiations at a time when national governments are seeking trillions of dollars in climate investments.

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AMAN dialogue 2025 — a new strategic initiative of Pakistan Navy

Iram Zahid

The oceans are a shared heritage of humanity, and our dependence on their resources is increasing with each passing day. Geo-economics is overriding geopolitics and is becoming a dominant strategic consideration with profound implications. Consequently, the security of global seaborne trade and energy routes, which underpin the global economic ecosystem, has gained unprecedented importance. Ensuring the free and uninterrupted use of the world's oceans has become crucial for maritime nations' security and sustenance.

Throughout history, strategic importance of the Indian Ocean has been at the crossroads of political, economic, and security paradigms at the global level. The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is bordered by 38 littoral states, including Pakistan, and features a diverse population with varying races, religions, and civilizations. Pakistan being a maritime state is heavily dependent on the Indian Ocean as 91% of its trade passes through it.

IOR states have distinct political systems, economic conditions, and interests. Approximately 58.3% of the world's oil and more than 45% of its natural gas reserves are in this region. The region has seven choke points (including major and minor), three of which are critical to global trade. Daily, about 21 million barrels pass through the Strait of Hormuz and 17 million through the Malacca Strait. Around 120,000 ships traverse the Indian Ocean annually, accounting for about 50% of global shipping.

Conversely, the region is also one of the most politically active and potentially volatile areas. Political instability often stems from internal, local, and regional conflicts, making it prone to inviting external political and military interventions. The security landscape of the Indian Ocean has thus become multifaceted and dynamic.

Key factors destabilizing the region include the increasing demand for fossil fuels, the rise of new regional powers with the ability to project power, Freedom of Navigation Operations, spillover of land conflicts into the sea, and disruptions in global maritime Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs). Due to non-traditional threats, global warming and subsequent sea-level rise, marine pollution and its effects on the global food chain, nuclear waste dumping, selective application of international/national maritime laws against other states (such as HMCR and MTCR), interference in regional SLOCs, and applying principles like Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) and Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) on the high seas. Additionally, advancements in naval weaponry, the application of AI in the maritime domain, the use of military

drone, threats from major power rivalries, and developments in regional navies & naval capabilities require attention. These challenges pose significant governance challenges to maritime policymakers in maintaining good order at sea, particularly in the Indian Ocean.

This unique facet of IOR challenges have broadened the scope of security in the maritime domain, forcing the nations worldwide to rethink their maritime policies and force structures. This evolving global environment

Advancements in naval weaponry, the application of AI in the maritime domain, the use of military drones, threats from major power rivalries, and developments in regional navies & naval capabilities require attention. These challenges pose significant governance challenges to maritime policymakers in maintaining good order at sea, particularly in the Indian Ocean. This unique facet of IOR challenges have broadened the scope of security in the maritime domain, forcing the nations worldwide to rethink their maritime policies and force structures. This evolving global environment has also led to new alliances and power blocs. The rise of bloc politics, with major powers investing heavily to attract weaker states, and the establishment of naval bases, listening posts, and control of chokepoints, present significant challenges. Strategic alliances like AUKUS, I2U2, QUAD, and BRICS have far-reaching consequences for maritime nations. Beyond the economic, trade, and security dimensions of the maritime environment, the diplomatic, political, legal, technical, and military aspects are equally important.

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Pakistan recognizes that no single country can address the multifaceted challenges in 21st century

alone. Therefore, a collaborative approach among maritime stakeholders is essential to maintain traditional and non-traditional threats. It is, therefore, Pakistan has been a key member of such initiatives i.e. CTF-150 and CTF 151 since 2004 and 2009 respectively. PN has commanded these task forces more than any other navy. In 2018, the Pakistan Navy also initiated the Regional Maritime Security Patrol (RMSP) to ensure regional maritime security and safeguard global energy SLOCs

turing operational discussions, seminars, and cultural exchanges, and the Sea phase, focusing on interoperability in tactical operations such as anti-piracy, air defense, and counterterrorism exercises, etc. The objectives of the AMAN exercise are to foster safe and sustainable maritime procedures, share experiences, and collectively address maritime threats to ensure regional peace and stability. The exercise enhances mutual understanding and trust among participating nations, contributing to the Pakistan Navy's strategic goals and operational capabilities. In 2023, the AMAN series was further enhanced by the addition of the Pakistan International Maritime Exhibition and Conference (PIMEC - 23), which provided the maritime business community an opportunity to showcase Pakistan's maritime potential and spur economic growth at the national level.

The AMAN exercise exemplifies Pakistan's naval diplomacy, uniting diverse naval forces from the Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC), NATO, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), especially bringing the US, Russia, Iran, and China to interact in a completely apolitical setting. This initiative not only bolsters Pakistan's image as a regional power but also reinforces its commitment to peace and stability in the maritime domain.

AMAN-25, scheduled for February next year, will further broaden its scope with the introduction of the 'AMAN DIALOGUE.' This forum will bring together naval chiefs, heads of coast guards, security organizations, maritime security experts, academia, think tanks, media, and maritime professionals from over 60 countries to collectively address pressing maritime issues through discussions, debates, and the exchange of ideas. The participation of such a diverse array of global leaders underscores the Pakistan Navy's commitment to fostering international collaboration for the promotion and peace and stability.

The initiatives of AMAN-25, coupled with AMAN Dialogue, will highlight the Pakistan Navy's pivotal role in shaping regional and international maritime security dynamics. By facilitating dialogue among global maritime stakeholders, Pakistan aims to strengthen its geopolitical standing and commitment to global peace. The addition of the AMAN Dialogue alongside traditional exercises demonstrates Pakistan's proactive maritime strategy. The success of the AMAN Dialogue will underscore the critical importance of collaborative efforts to address emerging security challenges not only at the regional but also at a global level.

(The writer is a Research Associate at National Institute of Maritime Affairs, Islamabad)

How the world keeps failing eastern DRC

Koen Vlassenroot and Christoph Vogel

On August 10, at least 18 were killed near the city of Beni, in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) near the border with Uganda. Two months earlier, on June 7, a massacre had left 80 dead, and another one on June 13 had killed 40 people. Such attacks have become all too common in recent years.

The intense violence in this part of eastern DRC has been generally attributed to the Allied Democratic Forces, a Ugandan-origin rebel group that pledged allegiance to the Islamic State in 2019. As with previous massacres, none of the nearby military forces – including the Congolese army, invited Ugandan military or UN peacekeeping troops – intervened to stop the killing.

This inaction reflects a broader politics of agony that has turned eastern DRC into a graveyard for thousands of civilians. At its roots is the failure of the mantra of good intentions professed by a divided and distracted "international community". So, where did it all go wrong?

For the better part of the last three decades, the DRC has topped international counts of conflict-induced internal displacement – currently peaking at nearly 7 million, according to the International Organization for Migration. Meanwhile, human rights violations by both armed groups and government forces have cascaded. More often than not, concomitant cycles of violence and displacement have gone unnoticed.

It was only with the resurgence of the March 23 Movement (M23) nearly three years ago that the conflict attracted renewed international attention. While the ensuing fighting contributed to burgeoning displacement figures, the exclusive political and media framing focusing on M23 has ignored the proliferation of armed groups causing mayhem in the region.

The government has used nationalist rhetoric to rally various militias to join the war effort against M23. This policy has empowered armed groups and produced an even more complicated security landscape.

Meanwhile, international donors have continued to pump millions into conflict resolution, including an expensive, ageing UN peacekeeping mission, vast humanitarian funds and costly peacebuilding projects to stem "root causes". Largely missing, in what on paper looks like dedicated engagement, are an in-depth understanding of political realities, constructive strategy and innovative diplomacy at key levels of international decision-making.

Responses to the crisis in DRC are often informed by simplistic readings of the causes of war. Punjits and influencers – including on social media – rehash tired colonial tropes about natural resources and ethnic hatred. Few commentators embrace the full, political nature of a crisis with various drivers and complex logic.

Western donors – nowadays often called "international partners" – largely continue to apply technocratic templates to political problems. Anticorruption rhetoric, regulation of "illicit" trade and calls for social cohesion feature in glossy strategies and press releases, but concrete action to tackle those scourges is often either superficial or absent from policy.

International responses also remain largely inconsistent in the specific context of the current escalation. There is little pressure to discourage the Congolese army's active collaboration with armed groups. Networks of grand corruption are rarely prosecuted and result in bizarre on-and-off sanctions sensitive to political shifts in the relations between DRC and key Western powers, such as the European Union or the United States.

Responses to the military involvement of neighbouring countries are equally inconsistent. Western denouncement of

Rwandan support for M23 does not stop the same governments from pushing for military aid to Rwanda in the context of the Mozambican crisis. Massive Burundian support to DRC received close to no international attention, even though it has further complicated the security landscape and led to a near proxy war situation between Burundi and Rwanda, heightening risks of further regional escalation.

This randomness and arbitrariness of a Western-leaning international community has not gone unnoticed by the Congolese and their neighbours.

As in similar ongoing conflicts, responses in the DRC showcase that classic international conflict resolution seems to have reached its limits and is losing much of its credibility – heralding the end of international peacebuilding and liberal interventionism in its current shape.

Contemporary conflict zones see new approaches and new actors scrambling for their place at the table. This is partly attributed to changing global power structures.

Three decades of violence in eastern DRC have ticked all the boxes in the "bucket list" of Western intervention and state-building: the DRC had its first democratic elections in 2006; it underwent a peaceful political transition; the International Monetary Fund re-engaged with the country; and regional bodies are now taking over the peacekeeping baton.

Yet, amid wider geopolitical entanglements, non-Western forms of colonialism seek to replace the Western template, and private military companies gain ground.

DRC and its rivals have turned to new and not-so-new partners in business, defence and diplomacy. These partners are as ambiguous and interest-driven as Western powers but without signposting human rights conditionalities and pro-democracy slogans.

Overall, the playing field of influence may not be as clear-cut as in Mali or the Central African Republic, where Russia, a new colonial actor, provoked a hard reset, kicking out France.

Still, the fading of Western influence in the Great Lakes region comes with similar patterns as new actors leverage the longstanding condescendence of Western powers. In a shifting global power system, these actors see their chance to get a foot in the door, banking on campaigns of disinformation and polarisation.

In this changing and increasingly fragmented international environment, the hypocrisy of old and new interveners is also somewhat mirrored by self-interested Congolese elites. These elites increasingly resort to outsourcing and sub-contracting national security to armed groups, private military companies and neighbouring states.

Such a hybrid context shows how security provision is no longer framed by international standards echoed by the UN that has not been able to achieve its global ambition. Leading to a fragmentation and privatization of security governance, in the case of the crisis in eastern DRC, these global and regional shifts will only add to the complex web of alliances and antagonisms that have already guided conflict drivers, interests and responses for decades.

These are tectonic shifts whether seen through geopolitical, realpolitik or postcolonial lenses. Their humanitarian effect worsens the already entrenched patterns of suffering and displacement of civilians, while the resulting fog of war conceals concerning developments of the broader international politics of (in-)security.

A sober and honest reckoning with these changing realities is direly necessary, in particular for those representing the slowly fading system of Western liberal interventionism and conflict resolution.

Sinwar’s killing should end the bloodshed

For Benjamin Netanyahu, the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar could have provided the ultimate victory photo-op. But victory is hardly the impression we are left with when looking at the Israeli leadership’s public statements and deeds, as they relentlessly continue the war in Gaza. This adds to suspicions that the Israeli prime minister is not interested in ending the conflict and bringing the hostages back, but instead is being guided by ulterior motives. In the absence of any prospect of a ceasefire, the worrying possibility is of a prolonged phase of terrible bloodshed — a lower-intensity war that could become the “new normal,” but still exact a heavy daily price from the people of Gaza.

Sinwar was number one on Israel’s hit list for his role in plotting the atrocities of Oct. 7, and regardless of any ceasefire deal, the Hamas leader, like everyone else, knew that the Israeli security forces would pursue him no matter how long it took. Few in Hamas understood Israel’s mindset as well as Sinwar, much of it learned during his more than 20 years in Israeli prisons — that it never lets up in its determination to exact revenge on those who cause it harm, whatever the scale of that harm. Yet, there was something extremely disturbing in the release of graphic images of his body showing the horrific injuries that he sustained. Fighting your enemy is one thing, and killing them on the battlefield is part and parcel of war; but for a civilized society, Sinwar’s death would mean that the score was settled, with no need for the gruesome photos and post-death humiliation. That can only be viewed as part of the brutalization of Israeli society.

By now Israel has eliminated most of the Hamas and Hezbollah leadership,

but has this provided the elusive “total victory” it desires? The simple answer is no, and for the reason that not only has “total victory” never been defined in either military or political terms, but also because the way it has been presented could only denote a victory that will be delayed until the last militants of these movements are dead or have surrendered. If any country should know that this is not an achievable goal, it is Israel: from its experiences in Lebanon since 1982, its 77 years of oppressive occupation of Palestinian land and block-

Yossi Mekelberg

It would be superficial and inaccurate to argue that the cases of Hamas and Hezbollah and Israel’s approach to them are identical, but there are enough similarities to draw parallels, and none of these will instill any confidence that these conflicts are close to a conclusion. To begin with, the idea that eliminating the leadership of a dissident movement will mean its defeat has time and again proved to be spurious. One can strongly object to targeted assassinations for political and moral reasons

ests.

If there was any sense of disappointment at the killing of Sinwar, it was that he was not killed in a well-planned operation but as a result of a chance encounter with Israeli soldiers. Hence, it caught the Israeli leadership unprepared; but instead of moving quickly into the political-diplomatic sphere, hubris and euphoria have descended on the Israeli government and its prime minister, with the belief that Israel can continue fighting on multiple fronts and force a resolution, instead of negotiating one.

Israel has eliminated most of the Hamas and Hezbollah leadership, but has this provided the elusive “total victory” it desires? The simple answer is no, and for the reason that not only has “total victory” never been defined in either military or political terms, but also because the way it has been presented could only denote a victory that will be delayed until the last militants of these movements are dead or have surrendered. If any country should know that this is not an achievable goal, it is Israel: from its experiences in Lebanon since 1982, its 77 years of oppressive occupation of Palestinian land and blockade of the West Bank and Gaza, and the extreme death and devastation it has inflicted on tens of thousands of Palestinians and now the Lebanese people, militants and civilians alike.

ade of the West Bank and Gaza, and the extreme death and devastation it has inflicted on tens of thousands of Palestinians and now the Lebanese people, militants and civilians alike. None of this has enhanced Israel’s long-term security, its international reputation, or its national unity. Without a strategy or a political plan, and with its endless quest for further military targets, Israel has only been drawn into an escalating war on several fronts, and with no end in sight.

in the first place, but when they do take place, the inevitable question is: to what aim? If it is about vengeance, which is hardly a human trait to be proud of, it results in no more than instant, often short-lived, gratification. If it is about deterrence and leaving the organization without leadership and thereby interrupting its operations, that has proved to be a temporary solution. A new leadership always emerges, one that is not necessarily more conducive to, or understanding of, Israeli inter-

Unless Israel can change gear and move to a phase that prioritizes a ceasefire, the release of the hostages, and the reconstruction of Gaza while ensuring that it is governed by Palestinians, with a transition period supported by the regional and international elements, we can expect only a prolonged and dangerous occupation of the enclave, at least its northern part, and along with that, mounting pressure from within the coalition, including the Cabinet, demanding the resettlement of Gaza — a

proposal that should be nipped in the bud. There is also the thorny question of when your enemy’s entire leadership is wiped out, who do you negotiate with? This might also be a headache for the mediators, but not an insurmountable one.

The Chinese strategist Sun Tzu understood many hundreds of years ago the need to “build your opponent a golden bridge to retreat across” — to create an environment for your enemy to accept that you hold the upper hand, but without humiliating them, and leaving room for peace beyond the war. There are two separate, but related, reasons why Israel has not subscribed to this sound advice and lacks an endgame. First is the surprising and shocking nature of the incident that sparked this war, which meant that ever since the Israeli government has only been operating on a tactical and not a strategic level.

Equally concerning is that it is led by a prime minister whose survival in power, and ability to derail and deflect from his corruption trial has obliged him to surround himself with extremists and incompetent politicians who either do not understand the gravity of a prolonged multi-front war with no political solution in sight, or, in their distorted view of the current conflict, see a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to end this conflict by annexing the West Bank and Gaza, and expanding its territory in the north, possibly all the way to the Litani River in Lebanon.

Tragically, this extremist dream is a nightmare for anyone else involved, including the regional powers and a large part of the international community. Hence, there is a collective responsibility to prevent this scenario from becoming reality before it is too late.

Alarm bells are sounding over next great ‘debt-quake’

Hafed Al-Ghwell

As the global economy lumbers on after a devastating pandemic and through rising geopolitical tensions, an unprecedented fiscal challenge looms: a public debt crisis poised to redefine the global financial landscape for generations to come. Global public debt is set to exceed \$100 trillion by 2024, representing 93 percent of global gross domestic product and projected to approach 100 percent by 2030. This figure has since exceeded pre-pandemic levels, masking a dire reality, especially when it comes to a surge in challenging scenarios, where global public debt is projected to surge to 115 percent of global GDP within three years, according to the world’s lender of last resort, the International Monetary Fund.

From the Great Depression of the 1930s to the palpable post-pandemic slowdown, the world has seen its fair share of fiscal chasms that spur coordinated action, as well as a rash of austerity measures that often breed new troubles rather than solving old ones. However, the next great “debt-quake” will be vastly different, as it stems from a confluence of factors: increasing spending pressure, and costly climate adaptation initiatives disproportionately affecting already debt-ridden countries considered to be part of the Global South. In addition, as the global order fragments, and middle powers rush to fill the vacuum in the wake of receding hegemonies, a swift pivot toward furthering geopolitical imperatives is straining an already difficult environment.

Furthermore, historically optimistic debt projections combine with substantial unidentified debt, with 40 percent of it arising from potential liabilities, primarily losses in state-owned enterprises — encapsulating the entrenched complexity of this looming crisis. There will be no “winners” in the coming debacle since a global debt implosion of such great magnitude will unleash a polycrisis that will test the mettle of governments worldwide, necessitating an unprecedented and speedy recalibration to avert the worst global financial crisis ever.

An unsustainable cycle of mounting debt is not merely a matter of economic theory to be debated by a small, exclusive circle of elites in gilded enclaves at Jackson Hole or Davos. It is a tangible shared threat to global stability, much like climate change. Policymakers are faced with impossible scenarios where advanced economies grapple with a debt-to-GDP ratio surpassing 100 percent, while also needing to fund unprecedented initiatives in climate resilience and sustaining strained safety nets as populations age. Turning to fiscal austerity will not be the magic bullet many want to believe it will be, since harsh budget cuts can stifle growth and social stability, risking a contagion of unrest and upheaval.

Conversely, unchecked public spending accelerates debt accumulation, fostering an addiction to low-interest rates and quantitative easing measures — a precarious balance likened to walking a tightrope without a safety net. Governments thus face the unenviable task of making reforms that ensure long-term fiscal responsibility without sacrificing critical investments. Failure to do so consigns future genera-

tions to a legacy of economic straitjackets and limited public services.

On the other hand, many developing nations face a different predicament altogether, one that is as dire as it is multifaceted. Roughly 54 of the world’s poorest economies remain ensnared in a financial trap where the necessity of attracting funding to spur economic growth clashes with the escalating urgency to cut debt. This dilemma is particularly evident as debt levels soar to around two-thirds of GDP, while growth rates are barely sufficient to ease the burden.

Meanwhile, traditional debt relief measures, albeit helpful in the short term, fail to address underlying structural weaknesses, and often come with strict conditions that limit future borrowing and spending.

squeeze will ultimately leave little room for foreign aid or debt relief, potentially triggering a domino effect of sovereign defaults among emerging economies. The ripple effects will destabilize global markets, exacerbate income inequality, and fuel geopolitical tensions causing the North-South divide to widen irreversibly. As developed nations grapple with knock-on fiscal constraints, the global economic order — should it survive — will face its toughest balancing act yet between prioritizing domestic welfare or propping up international financial stability.

It is a good sign that the alarm bells are sounding now. However, there is little hope for coordinated and proactive interventions since the looming debt-quake will demand a very radical shift in global economic cooperation, such as

The US, for instance, is projected to see its public debt surge from 108 percent of GDP in 2021 to over 200 percent by 2050, primarily driven by rising age-related expenditures. This squeeze will ultimately leave little room for foreign aid or debt relief, potentially triggering a domino effect of sovereign defaults among emerging economies. The ripple effects will destabilize global markets, exacerbate income inequality, and fuel geopolitical tensions causing the North-South divide to widen irreversibly. As developed nations grapple with knock-on fiscal constraints, the global economic order — should it survive — will face its toughest balancing act yet between prioritizing domestic welfare or propping up international financial stability.

Realistically, debt restructuring initiatives provide temporary relief, but rarely lead to commensurate economic revival, forcing nations to flirt with the prospect of insolvency. After all, creative solutions, such as debt-for-climate or debt-for-circular-economy swaps, are being platformed as potential game changers, but have yet to gain traction. However, they offer viable alternatives, instead of simply postponing the inevitable — a long overdue recalibration of economic strategies to include sustainable investments as perhaps the only way for building more resilient futures, turning a vicious cycle into a virtuous one.

Nonetheless, the clock is ticking. A demographic shift in developed economies is yet another formidable challenge that will likely worsen the cumulative impact of the coming debt-quake. As the ratio of workers to retirees declines — projected to fall from 4:1 in 2015 to just 2:1 by 2050 in Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development countries — governments face mounting pressure on safety net programs from pensions to healthcare. This strain is compounded by sluggish economic growth in recent years, combined with historically low interest rates, which hampers debt-servicing capabilities.

The US, for instance, is projected to see its public debt surge from 108 percent of GDP in 2021 to over 200 percent by 2050, primarily driven by rising age-related expenditures. This

unleashing innovative financial instruments intricately tied to the realities of our day at their core.

Debt-for-circular-economy swaps, for instance, offer a promising avenue, expanding on traditional debt-for-nature and debt-for-climate models. Such mechanisms could unlock billions in funding for sustainable development while alleviating crushing debt burdens. By tying debt relief to measurable progress on circular economy initiatives, countries can simultaneously address fiscal constraints and environmental challenges.

However, realizing this potential requires overcoming significant hurdles. Multilateral development banks must play a more active role in de-risking these transactions. Additionally, the international community must confront the glaring reality that 93 percent of climate-vulnerable countries are in or at risk of significant debt distress, spending five times more on debt repayments than climate action. This imbalance calls for a fundamental reimagining of sovereign debt management, potentially including automatic debt relief triggers linked to climate-related disasters or commodity price shocks.

While the task is daunting, the alternative — allowing nations from the Global South to remain trapped between debt servicing and essential investments — is untenable for global economic stability, especially after a debt-quake of significant magnitude strikes.

Biodiversity summit must tackle funding, biopiracy

As proceedings got underway at Cali in Colombia, which is hosting the latest summit on the state of biodiversity conservation around the world, three main challenges before the negotiators and indeed the whole world emerged.

The first is a report released at the summit saying that despite recent glimmers of hope about biodiversity conservation, the news is worse this year, as biodiversity is declining even faster in “protected” areas, and that simply designating areas as protected is hardly enough to ensure they stay protected. The report also raises questions about the value of assigning a protected site tag to an area when the government itself allows highly destructive activities, such as drilling for oil or mining, in the same location.

Two years ago, world leaders committed to protecting a third of land and water for nature by 2030, but this target now seems to be increasingly out of reach. It is not just the encroachments into protected areas that pose a threat to biodiversity. The other two challenges are equally, if not more, important, and have to be dealt with urgently if the world is to

have even a semblance of hope for biodiversity conservation.

The first is almost a repeat act of what has been plaguing the global climate change negotiations ever since they began three decades ago — promises of billions of dollars to be provided by developed countries to developing ones to help them prepare for the transition and technologies needed to curb their carbon emissions. Each year, the rich world reneges on its promises, leading to a mounting need that is estimated will add up to trillions of dollars by 2050.

In the biodiversity discussions, the situation looked better at the last summit in Montreal in 2022 when the rich countries agreed to pay \$30 billion by 2030 for biodiversity conservation. Of this, \$20 billion needed to be provided by 2025, which means that during the current conference the wealthy countries needed to come up with commitments regarding which country would provide how much of this and when.

It would be a mistake for global leaders to leave the Colombia summit with a mere repetition of promises since that would lead the biodiversity negotiations

Ranvir S. Nayar

down the same dead-end as the climate change talks. The developing world must up the ante right now and get rich countries to sign off on a time-bound commitment, with each country providing clear dates and means for the tranches of payments needed.

This may sound like a drastic step for a global negotiation, but unfortunately there is more than enough evidence to show that any other approach leads only to repeated failures in terms of broken promises, resulting in rising mistrust during the discussions. Eventually the world ends up paying the price of inaction that stems from lack of finance and adequate access to technologies to deal with the climate crisis.

If finance seems a difficult hill to climb at the biodiversity negotiations, the other challenge is a much bigger and more complicated affair: the issue of traditional knowledge, and the repeated attacks on these sources by companies from the developed and developing world seeking to patent this knowledge and profit from it by making their own versions of products, ranging from food ingredi-

ents and medicines to clothing and wellness products. In doing so, these companies often even sell these products to the very countries or societies from which they “stole” the know-how in the first place.

There are hundreds of such examples of what can be called “biopiracy,” where companies come as outsiders to take the raw materials from the forests and other natural resources, along with the know-how from these communities.

Local communities, mainly in the developing world, have protected these natural resources, along with the traditional knowledge on how to use these ingredients or products for thousands of years. So, it is but natural that they claim ownership of both the know-how and the resources.

For a company to step in and steal that knowledge and those resources in order to produce something marketed as “revolutionary” and innovative is not only fraudulent but also brazen theft or piracy.

It is time to regulate this as well. While there are efforts to preserve traditional know-how, mainly led by UNESCO, these are for the sake of pro-

tecting the knowledge and the resources, but they fail to address the issue that a few businessmen are making billions of dollars off the backs of these communities on whose resources and know-how their entire business model stands.

The global summit on biodiversity must tackle this issue head on and ban any such exploitation of resources unless local communities are involved completely in the process and the profits of any such commercial ventures.

While the idea of spreading the benefits of these natural products around the world is not a bad one in itself, the use of these natural resources, which are certainly limited and fragile, needs to be strictly controlled, and who better to regulate them than the communities that have been their guardians for thousands of years?

These communities should not just be partners but also hold the power of veto in case of any conflict concerning the business venture. Only in this way can the world hope to conserve its natural resources, while also ensuring that humanity can benefit from the riches of mother nature for thousands of years to come.

Andrew Hammond

world’s most pressing global health challenges. This includes helping detect and prevent future diseases as well as boosting health security within the region and also at home.

A UK-ASEAN Green Transition Fund worth up to £40 million was also announced to help boost green growth and leverage UK expertise to support countries at the forefront of the climate crisis. The funding will help unlock green growth for ASEAN businesses and in turn provide opportunities for green investments from the UK.

Outside of CPTPP, UK priorities in Asia are indicated by Lammy’s travels. These include a recent high-profile visit to China that was centered around a potential reset of relations,

as he became only the second UK foreign secretary to visit in six years.

Lammy met with his Chinese counterpart Wang Li; Chinese Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang, who is responsible for science and technology; and other top Communist Party officials. He also met UK business leaders in Shanghai.

Relations between the UK and China had, even before the coronavirus pandemic, cooled significantly under the last several UK Conservative governments. This includes following the political unrest in Hong Kong in recent years.

Today, even with a potential reset under the Starmer team, the mood music between Beijing and London remains a significant distance away from

the “golden era” following President Xi Jinping’s UK visit in 2015. Lammy was keen this week to stress that, while a stronger partnership is possible with China, the new government will be a pragmatic, but critical, friend on issues including human rights. To this end, the UK government has commissioned a government-wide audit of the UK-China relationship, and has said it will be “clear-eyed” with future ties.

What the Starmer team is particularly interested in is better access to China’s huge economy. The UK has long received one of the largest amounts of Chinese foreign direct investment of any European country, and is one of Beijing’s top European trade partners. Meanwhile, China is one of the UK’s largest non-EU

trade partners.

Following the China trip, Lammy last Sunday attended the inauguration of Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto. As with Beijing, the UK goal is a “new chapter” in relations with Jakarta.

In July, Lammy also visited India, where he sought to push forward a trade agreement. India is a key emerging economic superpower, and the most populous country in the world with around 1.4 billion people.

Last week Lammy also visited South Korea to tour the Demilitarized Zone before launching the first UK and South Korea Foreign and Defense Ministerial 2+2 Dialogue. The visit comes amid Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky’s accusation that North

Korea has sent 10,000 troops to help Russia’s war in his country.

Lammy has said this “is a stark reminder of the interconnectedness of conflict, with North Korea supporting Russia and prolonging conflict on Europe’s borders, while their illegal weapons of mass destruction program threatens regional security.” He added that this is why it is important for the UK to “engage globally over the conflict on our continent and security beyond it.”

Taken together, a potentially significant reset of UK policy is underway toward the Asia-Pacific that builds from the post-Brexit pivot to the region. Economics, not only politics, is at the heart of this, with CPTPP one key opportunity the Starmer team hopes to seize.

UK foreign policy ‘reset’ as Starmer looks to Asia-Pacific

Keir Starmer has spent more time on foreign policy issues than perhaps any recent UK prime minister during the crucial first 100 days in office. Yet, much of his attention so far has focused on the Middle East and Europe, not least with the wars involving Israel and Ukraine.

However, recent days have seen the Asia-Pacific rise to the fore. The new UK government views the vast region as crucially important to UK foreign and economic policy in the post-Brexit era.

Starmer has been making his first trip as prime minister to the region, to Samoa, to attend the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, where he has been joined by King Charles fresh from his visit to Australia. The

importance that Starmer attaches to the region, and the wider Commonwealth, is highlighted by the fact that he is making his multi-day visit just days before the government’s crucial budget statement on Oct. 30.

The starting point for the Labour government’s policy on the region is the acknowledgement that, with the possible exception of the AUKUS alliance with Australia and the US, the UK is not a strategically important nation that can — alone — significantly alter the military balance. However, this does not mean the UK government has no key interests in the region.

On the economic front, for instance, the new UK government hopes to build on the so-called post-Brexit pivot to the region, including to try to seize potential

advantages that flow from its membership of the Comprehensive and Pacific Trans Pacific Partnership. That is the trade zone that includes Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.

UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy engaged with many of these CPTPP member countries in July at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Laos. Lammy was keen to stress the UK’s economic priority of cooperation with ASEAN member states, which have a combined population of almost 700 million and an economy set to be fourth largest in the world by 2030.

The new UK foreign secretary also announced a £25 million UK-ASEAN partnership to tackle the



Governor urges traders to take advantage of investment opportunities in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has urged the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) to take advantage of lucrative investment opportunities in Balochistan and it can create a sustainable growing economy that benefits all provinces.

In a meeting with the representatives of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Governor House Quetta, he said that attention should be paid for boosting of border trade, establishment of border

markets, ensuring affordable power supply and taking guidance from economic experts to enhance economic activities in the country.

Jaffar Khan said the incumbent government is committed to provide full protection to all local and international investors and create ease to industrialists, said a news release.

On this occasion, Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail said that Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) is the largest business forum of the country

and hailed the coming of leading businessmen and industrialists from across the country to the provincial capital Quetta which would yield constructive and positive results.

He said the country's economy will be strengthened by the establishment of industrial zones in different divisions of Balochistan.

He urged the business community to help and guide the Balochistan government in creating vast opportunities for economic development in Balochistan, eliminating unemployment and making

possible access to the economic and trade markets of Central Asia including neighboring countries.

Jaffar Khan said the government is committed to boost economic activity, identify the challenges facing by the business community and protect the interests of the private sector.

Jaffar Khan Mandokhail said that people associated with industry and trade can play an important role in improving the agriculture and irrigation system in Balochistan and creating employment opportunities.

He urged the officials of FPCCI to utilize the knowl-

edge and experience of scientists and experts of our public sector universities in research and development.

He stressed that it is important to understand the objective conditions of each district of the province and prepare targeted solutions for long-term development and prosperity.

Governor Mandokhail said that greater mutual understanding is necessary to facilitate and create new opportunities for the business community.

He said that "We can create a bright economic future through joint efforts and consultation".



KARACHI: Executive Director PAS Qamar Abbas and CEC Member PAA Imran Irshad signing MoU. Chairman PAA Ahmed H. Kapadia, GM PAS Afsheen Rizavi and ED PAA Jamil Syed also present on occasion.

Govt needs to highlight critical role of small, medium enterprises

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol has said that government needed to highlight the critical role of small & medium enterprises (SMEs) in driving sustainable economic development in Pakistan. With an estimated 5.2 million businesses, the SME sector is a cornerstone of our economy, fostering employment, growth, and export diversification.

The PIAF chairman observed that despite their significance, more than 5 million SMEs face a significant credit gap, receiving limited credit, far below the neighboring countries. The State Bank of Pakistan is committed to increasing SME credit share to 17% by 2023. To achieve this, we must advocate for targeted and fixed SME allocations in concessional financing schemes, particularly those aimed at the export-oriented sector.

Faheem Saigol proposed the central bank to review its credit policies by fixing a special quota to finance

the small and medium enterprises, contributing around 40 percent to the national gross domestic product (GDP).

He said that the government with a view to help grow the businesses will have to take solid measures to strengthen the industry, especially the SMEs, saving the livelihood of millions of workers associated with the small industries. The government will have to make a visible reduction in markup rate to help grow the businesses, particularly the SME sector, as Pakistan needs millions of jobs annually.

He said that the State Bank of Pakistan has launched various policies for the promotion of SME finance, but the required results were still awaited. It was unfortunate that banks were always reluctant to provide financing to SMEs as their financing continued to show negative growth.

In its endeavor to provide concessional financing to the export-oriented sector, the SBP has introduced the Export Finance Scheme, offering financing as low as 3%, in stark con-

trast to the earlier Export Refinance Schemes' (ERF) markup rates that reached 21%. However, it is a matter of great concern that a substantial portion of this financing has been availed by large corporate industries, leaving no room for SMEs. The current economic challenges demand a targeted approach to support the SMEs, as they are among the hardest-hit and in desperate need of assistance.

He said that a small section of public sector and Islamic banks and few DFIs were active in financing SMEs sector. Despite significantly contributing to the GDP, exports and employment generation, the financing percentage of SMEs remained pathetic in general. He urged the government that SME policy should focus on addressing specific issues faced by the SME sector and help check reluctance of financial institutions to provide financing to SMEs. He stressed that a separate and comprehensive policy for the SME sector was the need of the day to promote contribution of SME sector

for inclusive growth. He called for early and speedy access to finance for SMEs, including creation of enabling regulatory framework, market development, awareness creation and capacity building programs for banks and SMEs and introduction of SME financing targets for banks and DFIs.

The PIAF leader pointed out that the government with a view to help grow the businesses will have to take solid measures to strengthen the industry, especially the SMEs, saving the livelihood of millions of workers associated with the small industries. The government will have to make a visible reduction in markup rate to help grow the businesses, particularly the SME sector, as Pakistan needs millions of jobs annually. He said that the State Bank of Pakistan has launched various policies for the promotion of SME finance, but the required results were still awaited. It was unfortunate that banks were always reluctant to provide financing to SMEs as their financing continued to show negative growth.

FBR rebuts misleading claims

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) issued a rebuttal on Sunday addressing recent misleading claims from certain sections of media that misrepresented the role and performance of the Directorate General of Intelligence and Investigation (Customs).

Contrary to these baseless assertions, the Directorate's mandate and functions remain intact, while specific changes are the part FBR transformation plan with was approved by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, said a news release.

The reorganization aims to eliminate duplicative enforcement roles within Customs, streamlining anti-smuggling and enforcement operations under a unified structure without compromising the Directorate's core functions.

Only certain regional offices, deemed redundant under the new structure, will be closed, with staff reallocated to the enforcement setups to strengthen and beef up anti-smuggling efforts.

PAA and PAS enter into partnership

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan Advertising Association (PAA) and the Pakistan Advertisers Society (PAS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen collaboration, aimed at promoting the growth and development of Pakistan's advertising and marketing industry.

PAA and PAS will jointly develop training programs, workshops, and seminars that focus on essential advertising skills, industry practices, and soft skills required to excel in the field. Both organizations will collectively and collaboratively work towards nurturing marketing talents, growing the business and accelerating opportunities of formal and informal learnings across Pakistan.

Imran Irshad, CEC Member of PAA, remarked: "This MoU marks a significant step towards taking Pakistan's advertising forward. By collaborating with PAS, we are confident

that we can provide the necessary tools and knowledge to nurture the next generation of advertising professionals while also advancing industry practices to a global standard."

Qamar Abbas, Executive Director of PAS, added: "Our partnership with PAA is focused on creating a meaningful change in the industry. By encouraging talent development, incorporating technology, and sharing insights, we are laying the groundwork for a more innovative and disruptive advertising ecosystem that can compete on an international level."

Commenting on the partnership, Ahmed Kapadia, Chairman PAA, stated:

"There is a dearth of good advertising talent in Pakistan at the moment. Through this alliance and many more that we are aiming to achieve, the objective is to create a unified platform in collaboration with all stakeholders and work towards raising the standard of marketing and advertising in Pakistan."

The MoU emphasizes the exploration and use of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, data analytics, and digital marketing tools to drive innovation in advertising. Workshops will be organized to help industry professionals leverage these technologies for more effective advertising strategies.

CASS hosts a seminar

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS), Lahore, hosted a seminar titled "Democratic Transition and Political Security: Challenges and Opportunities for Pakistan". Ameer Abdullah Khan, a Senior Researcher at CASS Lahore, opened the seminar by highlighting the nexus between political and national security.

Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT, delivered the keynote address, outlining Pakistan's political landscape from the perspectives of Islamic identity, political autonomy, institutional balance, and parliamentary democracy. He praised the drafting of a robust constitution and the institutionalisation of a vigorous election commission as important milestones in Pakistan's democratic consolidation.

He also analysed the parliament, political parties, and institutional balance as determinants of Pakistan's political security.

Fahad Hussain, President Aik News, provided a compelling analysis of the factors shaping Pakistan's political security. He discussed the role of provincial, demographic, and political fault lines, misinformation and fake news being spread through social media, and the influence of headlines visible in the form of dynastic politics

and elite privileges in determining Pakistan's political stability. Professor Dr Moonis Ahmer mentioned authoritarian mindset, corruption, nepotism, non-professional nature of political parties, and marginal role of education and youth as major factors of democratic fragility.

He accentuated the importance of political pluralism, institutional dedication to the political process, and press freedom as avenues to political security.

The seminar concluded with closing remarks by Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd), President CASS, Lahore who said that Pakistan's path to democracy has been anything but easy. He highlighted that Pakistan's democratic future relies on a stable political process, robust institutions, and active participation from civil society. President CASS emphasised that adherence to the Constitution, serves as the nation's guiding light and Pakistan must learn from its past and use these lessons to build a better future.

The seminar provided an important platform for dialogue on Pakistan's democratic journey and the relationship between political transition and security. It laid the groundwork for future discussions on democratic consolidation, political security, and the role of emerging generations in shaping Pakistan's political future.

SISS holds 5th Latif Literature and Music Festival at Sindh Agriculture University



F.P. Report

HYDERABAD: The Siraj Institute of Sindh Studies (SISS) has organised fifth Latif literary and music Festival at Sindh Agriculture University, Tando Jam. In her inaugural speech former chairperson Sindh language authority Dr. Fahmida Hussain said that it is need of hour to redefine Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai's poetry which reflect modern trends of practical life. She also shed light on various aspects of Siraj ul Haq Memon's life, stating that he dedicated his life to education and literature. Secretary of Information, Nadeem

Rahman Memon, was also present at the event as guest. Two important books of Sindh language were launched during the ceremony, including Shabir Kanbhar's research book "Siraj Likhat aien Siraj" on Siraj Haq Memon work for language and Dr. Fahmida Hussain's book "Kundhi Kliyun Wich Me" on short stories. Renowned Sindh writer Taj Joyo presented his analysis on Dr. Siraj ul Haq Memon's book "Sindh Likhat aien Siraj." He said that Shabir Kanbhar had done a lot of work to digitalize the Sindh language, but there is still a lot of scope for the complete digitalization of

the Sindh language. He said that Siraj ul Haq Memon, at the age of 25, had said that Sindh was the language of this region. Later, Dr. Nabi Bakhsh Baloch also agreed with Siraj Haq Memon's opinion. Professor and researcher at Federal Urdu University, Dr. Abida Ghanghro, presented a research paper on the importance of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai's poetry for youth in the age of science and technology. She said that Shah Abdul Latif teaches youth about hard work and dedication and Shah Latif promotes human values and the moral upbringing of young gener-

ation along with progress. The youth of this era believe in logic and reason, so they do not believe in the assumptions associated with Shah Latif's life. She said that Shah Latif wanted to break the stagnation of society and bring change, and thus traditional thinking has been rejected in his poetry.

Speaking at the event, Amar Sindh, commenting on Dr. Fahmida Hussain's book "Kundhi Kliyun Wich me," said that today's youth should definitely read this book of short stories as it is an excellent book on the issues faced by women in society.

The Latif Festival organised on the 91st birth anniversary of Siraj ul Haq Memon, Dr. Ihsan Danish also presented a critical review on Siraj ul Haq Memon's stories.

Speaking as the chief guest, Vice-Chancellor of Sindh Agriculture University, Tando Jam, Dr. Fateh Muhammad Mari, said that the purpose of this festival is to present Shah

Latif's thoughts in a modern way. He appreciated the services of Siraj ul Haq Memon's family.

He informed that the syndicate has approved the establishment of the Siraj Institute of Rural Development in recognition of Siraj ul Haq Memon's literary services. Minister for Labor, Sindh, Shahid Thahim also attended the festival and congratulated the organizers on holding an excellent program. A panel discussion was also held on the topic of "Shah Latif's message to the youth."

Moderator Kainat Thebo started the session, while panelists included Ms. Sakina Veesar, Azeem Maitlo Abdullah Veesar, and Ali Mangan. They discussed Shah Latif's message for the youth and advised the youth to follow the message of struggle, peace, love, and brotherhood. Renowned actor Ayub Khoso and renowned Urdu writer Ghazi Salahuddin were also present at the festival.

High cost of doing business hurts trade, industry most: BMP

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel has called for keeping check on government expenditure and high cost of debt servicing to contain budget deficit, as the Pakistan's federal budget deficit projection has been revised to history's highest to over Rs4 trillion, highlighting the unending fiscal woes that have pushed the country into a debt trap despite putting additional burden of billions of rupees on industry in the current fiscal year.

The FPCCI former president and BMP chairman Mian Anjum Nisar has warned the high cost of doing business has been

hurting the economic growth, hurting the trade and industry the most, which faced the brunt of a staggering increase in gas and power prices.

The FPCCI former president said that the failure to reform the tax system is a major factor behind heavy domestic and foreign borrowings by the government.

Mian Anjum said that the most serious threat to the economy in the current fiscal year is high cost of production, because it is already hitting economy due to continuous raise in oil prices and depreciation of local currency. Quoting the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, he said that the Consumer Price Index surged last month compared to a year ago. The

increase was more than market expectations and has lessened the prospects for a cut in the interest rates, which stand at the country's highest ever level.

This reading, the first announced by the PBS after the recently concluded International Monetary Fund talks, in which the global lender also cut the inflation forecast for Pakistan to single digit, may strengthen the IMF's view of keeping the policy rate.

He predicted that inflation would remain low and may even decline further due to market frictions caused by relative demand and supply gap of essential items, exchange rate depreciation and recent upward adjustment of administered

prices of petrol and diesel.

Expressing serious concern over the high jump in country's budget deficit, BMP chief said the revision has been made in light of agreement with the International Monetary Fund, which exposed the massive underreporting of expenditures at the time of budget presentation by the finance ministry.

This is a highly unsustainable level and has already pushed the country into a situation where debt restructuring seems to be the only viable option. The PIAF and BMP leader maintained that the failure to reform the tax system and increase revenue collection is a major factor behind heavy domestic and foreign borrowings by the government.

Mian Anjum Nisar said that the privatization commission of Pakistan is struggling since months to effectively put in place the privatization of loss-making public sector enterprises; notably, the Pakistan Steel Mills and Pakistan International Airlines despite the urgency and concern expressed, time and again, by the IMF.

The decision-making processes and any constitutional amendment are likely to be driven and influenced more by conflicting self-interests of the coalition partners, watering down the key objectives. This is not what the country needs in these unprecedented times of political and economic challenges confronting the nation. He observed that the most seri-

ous threat to the economy in the current fiscal year is high cost of production, because it is already hitting economy due to continuous raise in oil prices and depreciation of local currency.

Quoting the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, he said that the Consumer Price Index surged last month compared to a year ago. The increase was more than market expectations and has lessened the prospects for a cut in the interest rates, which stand at the country's highest ever level.

Pakistan's government liquidity and external vulnerability risks will remain very high until there is clarity on a credible longer-term financing plan.

It said Pakistan's foreign

exchange reserves remained normal now, sufficient to cover several months of imports and well above what was required to meet external financing needs for the next three to four years.

Based on the IMF's report published in January, Moody's said Pakistan's external financing needs were about \$24 billion in the next fiscal year (Jul-Jun) 2024-25 and about \$25 billion annually in fiscal 2026 and 2027. The country will need a longer-term financing plan to meet its very large financing needs for the next few years, after its current IMF program ends next year.

At present, Pakistan has been assigned a stable rating of "Caa3" by Moody's.

It said prolonged delays in the formation of a government would increase policy and political uncertainty at a time when it faced very challenging macro-economic conditions.

In view of the low level of available FX reserves, the debt management strategy of Pakistan may have to be revisited, to ensure the stability of Pakistani rupee and restoration of international capital markets' confidence in the economy of Pakistan.

He expressed surprise at the impact of the gas price hike, stating that it has surpassed market expectations. His analysis suggests that PBS included fixed costs, such as meter rent, in the weekly inflation calculation in addition to the gas tariff hike.



In brief

Kejelcha sets world record

PARIS (Agencies): Yomif Kejelcha has set a new world record on his way to winning the Valencia Half Marathon. Kejelcha, who also holds the indoor mile world record, set in Boston in 2019, finished in 57 minutes 30 seconds in wet conditions in the Spanish city. The 27-year-old's time was one second quicker than Ugandan Jacob Kiplimo's mark from Lisbon three years ago. The women's race was won by Agnes Ngetich of Kenya, who moved to second in the world all-time rankings with a time 63:04. In only his sixth half marathon, Kejelcha settled in behind the pacemakers from the start, making his move around the three-kilometre mark and eventually breaking away from Kenyans Daniel Mateiko and Isaia Kipkoeh for victory. Kejelcha is a two-time world indoor 3000m champion but could only finish sixth in the 10,000m final at the Paris Olympics earlier this year.

Echavarria win C'ship

INZAI (Agencies): Colombia's Nico Echavarria sunk a short birdie putt at the final hole Sunday to win his second US PGA Tour title at the Zozo Championship in Japan by a single stroke. The birdie four enabled Echavarria to avoid a playoff with two-time major winner Justin Thomas and his fellow American Max Greyserman, who finished tied for second at 19-under par. The Colombian reached the green in two at the par-five 18th and calmly rolled up a 40-foot eagle attempt to three feet before stroking home the winning putt at Narashino Country Club. The 30-year-old, whose previous win came at the Puerto Rico Open in March 2023, took a two-shot lead into the final round where he carded a three-under 67 to finish on 20-under 260. A bogey at the eighth and another at 14 had opened the door for Thomas and Greyserman but the Colombian held his nerve to birdie two of the final three holes for the victory. Thomas, who had been looking to end a more than two-year title drought since his second major win at the 2022 US PGA Championship, also birdied 18 for a four-under 66. Greyserman had four birdies on the front nine and another on the 14th, but his birdie attempt on 18 to force a playoff rolled agonisingly wide of the hole as he finished with a 65. American Rickie Fowler was alone in fourth, three shots behind Echavarria, after a final-round 64. Xander Schauffele, the winner of two majors this year, finished in a tie for 41st after a disappointing week. He carded a quadruple bogey on the first day in a three-over 73 and though he bounced back with a 65 on Friday, he was never in the hunt and finished with a 69 and a five-under total of 275, 15 strokes adrift of the winner. Defending champion Collin Morikawa finished tied 54th at three-under par.

Racist abuse condemned

MADRID (Agencies): Real Madrid condemned racism from some of their supporters aimed at Barcelona players including teenager Lamine Yamal and Alejandro Balde during the club's 4-0 Clasico defeat on Saturday. La Liga said they would report the incidents to Spanish authorities, while the government was also critical of the abuse.

Rizwan appointed as Pakistan's new white-ball captain



LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): Wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan has been appointed Pakistan's white-ball captain, while Salman Ali Agha has been named vice-captain as the selectors announced Pakistan's squads for the ODI and T20I tours of Australia and Zimbabwe from 4 November to 5 December. Salman will lead the T20I side in Zimbabwe as Rizwan is rested under a workload management plan. The 32-year-old Rizwan, who debuted in white-ball cricket in 2015, has played 74 ODIs and 102 T20Is to date, scoring 5,401 runs with four centuries and accounting for 143 dismissals behind the stumps. As he leads the team in the opening ODI against Australia in Melbourne on 4 November, Rizwan will become Pakistan's 31st captain. For the first T20I in Brisbane on 14 November, he will be the 12th to captain Pakistan in the format. **Mohammad Rizwan:** "I am deeply honoured to be appointed as Pakistan's white-ball captain. Representing Pakistan on the global stage is the greatest privilege and to now be

entrusted with leading such a talented and exciting group of players is a tremendous honour. Joining the ranks of some of Pakistan's legendary limited-overs captains truly is the icing on the cake. "I am committed to giving my absolute best in this role and look forward to working closely with the selectors, coaches and my immensely talented teammates. Together, we aim to meet and exceed the expectations of our fans and supporters. "Pakistan cricket holds immense potential across all formats and I am confident that, with the support of God Almighty, we will build on our recent success against England to achieve even greater heights in what promises to be a challenging and busy season of white-ball cricket." **PCB Chair Mohsin Naqvi:** "I want to extend my congratulations to Mohammad Rizwan on his appointment as Pakistan's white-ball captain. I am confident that Rizwan's leadership qualities, underpinned by his deep commitment and passion for the game, will help shape this talented team into a consis-

tently successful unit. "Rizwan has earned the respect of his peers and colleagues through his dedication and positive attitude, and I have no doubt that these qualities, combined with his game knowledge and performance, will inspire the next generation of Pakistan cricketers. "The PCB has always been fully committed to supporting our players and staff, and we will continue to stand by Rizwan as he takes on this important role. We are optimistic that under his leadership, Pakistan's white-ball cricket team will once again become a force to be reckoned with on the international stage." Pakistan squads for Australia and Zimbabwe tours: **ODI SQUAD FOR AUSTRALIA:** Mohammad Rizwan (captain), Salman Ali Agha (vice-captain), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Arafat Minhas, Babar Azam, Faisal Akram, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (WK), Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Hasnain, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Saim Ayub, Shahnawaz Dahani and Tayyab Tahir. **T20I SQUAD FOR ZIMBABWE:** Salman Ali Agha (captain), Ahmed Daniyal, Arafat Minhas, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (WK), Jahandad Khan, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Hasnain, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Omair bin Yousuf, Qasim Sukran, Sahibzada Farhan, Sufyan Moqim, Tayyab Tahir and Usman Khan.

Pakistan men's central contracts announced

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has awarded 12-month central contracts to 25 men's cricketers for the 2024-25 international season, effective from 1 July 2024. The contracts have been offered under the structure that was agreed last year between the players and the PCB for a three-year period. As part of the PCB's strategy to incentivise, encourage and reward talented and emerging cricketers, five players have been offered central contracts for the first time. They are Khuram Shahzad, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Ali, Muhammad Irfan Khan and Usman Khan. These players have been placed in Category D. List of centrally contracted players: Category A (2): Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan. Category B (3): Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Shan Masood. Category C (9): Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Haris Rauf, Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha, Saud Shakeel and Shadab Khan. Category D (11): Aamir Jamal, Haseebullah, Kamran Ghulam, Khuram Shahzad, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Ali, Muhammad Hurraira, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Mohammad Wasim Jnr and Usman Khan.

Stokes hurting after defeat in Pakistan - McCullum

LONDON (Agencies): England captain Ben Stokes will be "hurting" after the series defeat in Pakistan, says coach Brendon McCullum. The tourists were spun out in the second and third Tests to lose 2-1, the first time they have been beaten in a three-match series after going 1-0 up. Stokes missed the first Test at the end of two months out with a hamstring injury, then managed 53 runs in four innings and went wicketless in the 10 overs he bowled. "He's disappointed but he's our skipper and we know he's tough," said McCullum. "He'll make sure he'll come back. It's our job to make sure we wrap our arms around him and help him along the way." Stokes has endured a stop-start couple of years with his fitness. For much of 2023 his bowling was hampered by a long-term left knee problem. He had surgery in November that year and was back to playing a full role as an all-rounder in this year's home summer, only to injure his hamstring playing in The Hundred in August. The 33-year-old missed four Tests, including the series opener in Pakistan, which the tourists won. He returned for the second - a defeat on a recycled pitch in Multan - then particularly struggled in the series decider in Rawalpindi. Stokes scored 15 runs in two innings and did not bowl. On the second afternoon, Stokes' captaincy was unusually passive as Saud Shakeel compiled a century to give Pakistan control. In England's second innings, Stokes was bizarrely lbw playing no shot to spinner Noman Ali. England were ultimately skittled for 112, their lowest total in Pakistan, setting the hosts towards a nine-wicket win. "He is disappointed, naturally," said McCullum. "We all know how competitive and driven the skipper is. He'll be hurting right now with how the series has unfolded. "That injury was quite significant. He had to put in a lot of graft and subconsciously maybe you're not quite as screwed down as you can be in terms of decision-making. That's natural." England have a short turnaround to their next tour, a three-Test series in New Zealand beginning at the end of November. A squad is expected to be announced in the coming days, with few changes anticipated. Leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed is likely to make way, possibly for a batter or wicketkeeper to cover for Jamie Smith, who will miss part or all of the tour for the birth of his first child. The first Test is in Christchurch, the city where Stokes was born before moving to the UK at the age of 12. "He'll be better for the run, no doubt," said McCullum, himself a New Zealander. "It will be a couple of weeks off, freshen up and back to conditions which are a bit more similar to England. It's another opportunity for us."

Newage clinch Lahore Smart City Polo title

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): Newage Cables emerged title winners in the Lahore Smart City Polo in Pink after defeating FG/Din Polo in a thrilling 7-6 match in the thrilling final held at Lahore Polo Club ground on Sunday. Thousands of spectators gathered at the Lahore Polo Club to witness the final match. The chief guest for the event was Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Distinguished guests included female ambassadors from various countries, such as Jane Marriott from the UK, Alexandra Berg von Linde from Sweden, Manuel Durán from Spain, Leslie Scanlon from

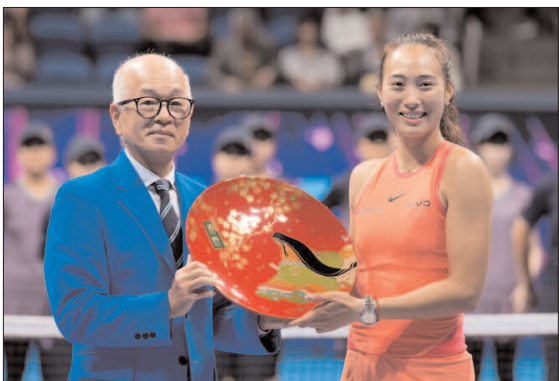
Canada, and Dr. Riina Kionka from the European Union. Also present were Lahore Polo Club President Malik Azam Hayat Noon, members of the polo club's executive committee, former Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar, and numerous families. The final between Newage Cables and FG Polo was a highly competitive and thrilling encounter, with Newage Cables securing victory in the last moments. For Newage Cables, Raja Samiullah fired in four fabulous goals, while Adnan Jaleel Azam, Alman Jaleel Azam, and Jade Wheeler contributed one goal each. For FG/Din

Polo, Raja Mikael Sami hammered four goals, while Raffay Shaikh and Abbas Mukhtar scored one goal each. Earlier in the subsidiary final, Total Nutrition defeated Diamond Paints 8-4. In the closing ceremony, chief guest Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, alongside the female ambassadors, distributed prizes among the winners and top performers. Bilawal expressed his delight at visiting the historic club, praised the exhilarating sport of polo, congratulated the winning team, and appreciated the presence of international female players, considering it a positive gesture.



LAHORE: Chairman PPP Bilal Bhutto Zardari presenting the trophy to the successful team of polo match at Polo Ground. —APP Photo

Olympic champion Zheng hails consistency



TOKYO (AFP): Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen hailed her new-found consistency after capturing her third title of the year on Sunday, beating Sofia Kenin in the Pan Pacific Open final in Tokyo. China's Zheng beat American Kenin 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 to extend an impressive run of form this year for the world number seven. The 22-year-old became the first Chinese player to win an Olympic singles tennis gold when she triumphed in Paris. She also won in Palermo and finished runner-up in Wuhan and at the Australian Open. Zheng struggled for consistency after losing to Aryna Sabalenka in Melbourne at the start of the year and she said it had forced her to re-evaluate her mindset. "When I made the final at the Australian Open, everybody said it was really good but after I had ups and downs at the other tour-

naments," she said. "I started to repair myself and start thinking again what kind of mentality I need." Zheng, the top seed in Tokyo, kept her cool to edge a tight first set despite two rain delays, before pressing home her advantage to take the second comfortably. She hit a total of 16 aces to finally lift the trophy having lost to Russia's Liudmila Samsonova in the final two years ago. "I did some good preparation here," she said. "In all the matches I played there is only one with three sets, so I would say it's a quite successful tournament for me." Kenin injury scare Kenin, the 2020 Australian Open champion, had an injury scare when she retired from her doubles semi-final on Saturday. She played the final with heavy strapping on her upper leg and said she "felt it" but "Qinwen played well and deserved to win".

It was the world number 155's first final of 2024, and she was looking to end a title drought that stretches back more than four years. "I expected nothing but the best from her because she's been having an amazing year and she's a top-10 player," said Kenin. "I just wanted to see where I stand. I feel like overall it was a great match." Neither player was allowed to get into a rhythm early in the match as rain twice brought play to a halt. The roof was eventually closed and Zheng edged ahead with the slimmest of margins to take the first set in a tiebreak. Backed by a large contingent of Chinese fans, the 22-year-old took control of the second set early. She closed it out when Kenin hit a return that was called in but overturned when Zheng successfully appealed. "I was pretty sure the ball was out because I saw the mark," said Zheng. "In my eyes it was far away but when the challenge came out it was really close, only a tiny bit." Zheng had already qualified for next month's season-ending WTA Tour Finals in Saudi Arabia. "It's tough to say if it's going to help me in Riyadh because every tournament is different," she said. "The conditions change a lot. Of course it's going to help with my confidence."

Mbappe and Real Madrid shaken by Clasico thrashing

MADRID (AFP/APP): Despite Barcelona's rapid revival under Hansi Flick, Real Madrid were confident heading into Saturday's La Liga Clasico at the Santiago Bernabeu. They had every reason to be. The reigning Spanish and European champions had gone 42 matches unbeaten in the league, one short of the all-time record held by their arch-rivals. They flexed their muscles in midweek, thrashing Borussia Dortmund 5-2 in the Champions League with a sensational second-half display in which Vinicius Junior -- who is tipped to win the Ballon d'Or on Monday -- scored a hat-trick. And this summer Madrid finally signed the player they craved for years, French superstar Kylian Mbappe, a devastating attacking threat seemingly destined to elevate them to an even higher plane. That was president Florentino Perez's dream. Mbappe's

too. The hotly anticipated Clasico, Mbappe's first, was the perfect stage for him and Madrid to put Barcelona in their place. Flick's tactical approach, featuring an extremely high defensive line, also seemed ripe for Mbappe and Vinicius to pillage with their pace. However Los Blancos were caught out time and time again by Barcelona's supremely well-drilled offside trap and were ultimately dismantled in the same way they had anticipated beating their opponent. Robert Lewandowski's brace early in the second half stunned the Bernabeu and Lamine Yamal and Raphinha's strikes on the counter-attack helped Barcelona to a sensational 4-0 triumph to move six points clear at the top of La Liga. The victory sent shockwaves through the capital and caused Madrid fans and media to launch an inquisition of their team. Mbappe, who had two goals disallowed for off-

side, cut an extremely frustrated figure and is yet to settle at the club. The forward has six league goals this season in contrast to Lewandowski's 14. "The star's first Clasico was a cat- aclysm -- a failure, stumbling eight times in Flick's offside trap. Shrunk and without venom, he's a worry," wrote Madrid newspaper AS. "Kylian Mbappe will not keep fond memories of his first Clasico with Real Madrid, instead he will try to turn the page as quickly as possible," added Marca. "The goal was getting smaller and smaller for Kylian, and he could not find a way of beating (Barca goalkeeper) Inaki Pena." Despite Ancelotti insisting Mbappe was "calm" ahead of the game, recent events may have taken a toll. He is wrangling with former club Paris Saint-Germain over millions in back pay and was criticised in his homeland after not playing for France in recent Nations League fixtures. Swedish media reported he is being investigated over an alleged rape in Stockholm following a trip there during the international break. Mbappe has dismissed the reports as "fake news". - "Don't have to bin everything" - Ancelotti insisted his team had not been sent back to square one. "I liked the first half, we have to follow that line," said the coach. "We don't have to throw everything in the bin, we just have to forget the last 30 minutes -- we can't give up, we just have to learn. "We came out of the last defeat well and we have to do the same, I am certain we will do better." Madrid last lost in La Liga over a year ago, against Atletico Madrid, and Ancelotti tinkered his set-up afterwards, giving Jude Bellingham a hybrid role.





In brief

Policemen deployed

RAWALPINDI (APP): More than 1,700 police officers will be deployed to provide security during the upcoming anti-polio campaign in Rawalpindi. According to a police spokesman, top-notch security will be maintained during the campaign. The officers and jawan will work alongside 774 teams of polio workers to ensure the safety of both the teams and the public. Under the security plan, elite force, dolphin units and patrolling police would make sure security of polio vaccination teams. Rawalpindi Police using all available resources to protect citizens' lives and property, spokesman added.

Redressal of public grievances

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi held a Khuli Katchery (open court) at the Central Police Office, emphasizing that addressing public grievances was a top priority. A public relation told APP that, during the Khuli Katchery, IG Rizvi listened to the concerns of citizens and police officers, issuing on-the-spot directives to senior police officials for timely resolution of issues. "Resolving citizens' issues on merit is our foremost priority, negligence and carelessness in duties will not be tolerated," IG stated. "Citizens facing any issue related to the police can come to the Khuli Katchery, my office is always open for my citizens," the IG Rizvi said. IG ICT further directed the relevant officers to resolve the citizen grievances on merit within the stipulated time frame and report back to the Central Police Office. IG Rizvi directed all SDPOs and SHOs to adhere to the designated office hours and prioritize resolving citizens' issues. On the occasion, the IG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said, "Islamabad Police are taking various measures for the facilitation of citizens." "The daily holding of Khuli Katchery helps in resolving issues on a priority basis," he added. Moreover, all zonal officers and SHOs are directed to meet citizens during the designated office hours and resolve their issues promptly and on merit.

Accused held for murder

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Police Golra police station and homicide unit police teams on Sunday successfully arrested an accused who was allegedly involved in murdering his sister. In Golra police station, a citizen filed a complaint regarding the brutal murder of his niece, allegedly carried out by her real brother, named Muhammad Zain, using a sharp weapon, a public relations officer said talking to APP on Sunday. Upon receiving the information, the Golra police immediately registered case number 559/24 and initiated an investigation. Police team after utilizing modern technical and scientific methods, the Golra police and homicide unit swiftly apprehended the accused namely Muhammad Zain. The police team also recovered a murder weapon from his possession. The case has already been registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway. Senior police officials said that Islamabad police are carrying out indiscriminate actions to combat crimes, violence, and murder incidents. They assured that strict legal action would be taken against the accused, leading to appropriate punishment, and that the accused will be prosecuted based on solid evidence. Moreover, Islamabad police are utilizing all available resources to protect the lives and property of citizens.



ISLAMABAD: A large number of people participating in a rally on the occasion of Kashmir Black Day to express solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. —APP Photo

Maqam leads rally on Kashmir Black Day, urges UN to fulfill promise

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Engineer Amir Maqam, on Sunday led a rally in the federal capital on the occasion of Kashmir Black Day to express solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Addressing to rally participants here, he reminded the people of October 27, 1947, when Indian forces entered Jammu and Kashmir illegally, stating, "No Pakistani can forget this day." He honored the courage of Kashmiris who, after 77 years, continued their struggle for self-determination.

He highlighted the sacrifices made, with over 97,000 martyrs, countless

widows, and orphaned children. The minister expressed disappointment with international human rights organizations, calling on the United Nations to address what he termed as genocide in Kashmir.

Engineer Amir Maqam urged the UN to fulfill its commitment to resolve the Kashmir issue per its own resolutions, allowing Kashmiris their right to self-determination.

He said Pakistan has always been a staunch advocate of this indigenous right of Kashmiris living in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and has always supported them in this just struggle.

He stated that recent elections in occupied Kashmir

revealed the reality of India's narrative and urged India to consider this election as a referendum against its rule.

Commending Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif for raising the Kashmir and Palestine issues at the UN General Assembly in September 2024, Amir Maqam reassured that Pakistan will continue to support Kashmir's political, diplomatic, and moral cause until Kashmiris achieve their right to self-determination. He also praised Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for their efforts in organizing and highlighting this important day.

Photo exhibition on 'Kashmir Black Day' organized

RAWALPINDI (APP): In connection with Kashmir Black Day, the Punjab Arts Council hosted a photo exhibition depicting Indian atrocities in occupied Jammu & Kashmir. Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Culture, Shazia Rizwan, inaugurated the exhibition.

While addressing the participants of the exhibition, Shazia Rizwan reaffirmed Pakistan's continued diplomatic and political support for the right of self-determination of people of IIOJK. "Every child of Pakistan stands with the people of Kashmir. Pakistan will continue to support the Kashmiris' struggle for freedom on political and international fronts until the end of India's illegal occupation", she said adding there is a pain in the eyes of the Kashmiris.

Shazia urged the international community to address the pain and sufferings of Kashmiris, as global peace remains incomplete without the freedom of occupied Kashmir. Director Arts Council, Sajjad Hussain said that October 27 is the tragic day of the Indian occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. "Kashmir Black Day is the story of India's illegal occupation and long struggle for the freedom of Kashmiri people", he said. Sajjad said that for seven decades, Kashmiri people have been making sacrifices for freedom, justice and their right to self-determination.

NDMA dispatches 14th Relief Consignment for Gaza, Lebanon

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on the directives of the Prime Minister, continued to provide humanitarian aid to the war-affected people of Gaza and Lebanon.

On Sunday, the 14th consignment of aid was dispatched from Karachi to Lebanon. This aid shipment, sent by NDMA in collaboration with Al-Khidmat Foundation, comprised approximately 17 tons of supplies, including tents, food tins, dry milk, clothes and hygiene kits, a news release said.

The aid was dispatched via flight from Jinnah International Airport,

Karachi, to Beirut, Lebanon. The send off ceremony held at Jinnah International Airport was attended by Federal Minister for Maritimes Affairs Qaisar Shah and the representatives of NDMA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Al-Khidmat Foundation.

The Minister emphasized the urgent need to provide relief to the war-affected populations of Palestine and Lebanon, considering the ongoing conflict and the needs of the affected communities.

He reaffirmed the Government of Pakistan's commitment to supporting the brothers and sisters in distress and stressed the importance of collaboration

by welfare organizations and the Pakistani public in strengthening these efforts. Prior to this, Government of Pakistan has sent 11 aid consignments to Gaza, Palestine, and this marked the third shipment to Lebanon, with a total volume of 1,398 tons.

The Government of Pakistan continues to send relief supplies based on the needs of the war-affected populations of Lebanon and Palestine. On instructions of Prime Minister, a special account named the "Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Gaza and Lebanon," for collection of donations from the public to aid their brothers and sisters in Gaza and Lebanon who are facing war emergencies.

Pakistan media rises for Kashmir, condemns India's 77-year occupation of Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani media platforms are strongly condemning and filled with tributes to the Kashmiri struggle, exposing the true face of India where youth actively participate in this online movement, sharing posts that echo the voices of Kashmiris in their quest for freedom and justice. A report aired by PTV News highlighted the sentiments of Pakistan's youth, politicians, poets, analysts and Hurriyat leaders who passionately condemned India's 77-year occupation of Kashmir.

"We stand in solidarity with our Kashmiri brethren," said a student from Foundation university Islamabad. "India's occupation is a blatant disregard for human rights and international law." Another youth leader emphasized, "The world must recognize the suffering of Kashmiris and pressure India to resolve this dispute peacefully." Syeda Nimra A student from NUML University. She added, "It is clear violation of UN resolution which was granted by Kashmiri people." Saifullah another student from Foundation University of Rawalpindi strongly condemned the egregious violations of Kashmiris' rights in India, particularly the systematic demolition of Muslim-majority areas.

Poets are also using their platforms to raise awareness about the Kashmir issue, with many sharing powerful verses on social media. "The pen is mightier than the sword, but in Kashmir, even the pen is not allowed to speak," writes one poet, highlighting the restrictions on freedom of expression in IIOJK. "India's occupation of Kashmir is a blatant disregard for human rights and international law," says a renowned analyst.

Another user of facebook emphasized that the world must recognize the suffering of Kashmiris and pressure India to resolve this dispute peacefully. On Kashmir Black Day, several ministers and politicians on various private and public news channels also expressed their solidarity with the Kashmiri people and condemned India's occupation. Youth are utilizing social media platforms to express solidarity with Kashmiris, raised awareness about the occupation, and demand action from world leaders.

ANF recovers 223 kg drugs in eight operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting eight operations across the country managed to recover over 223 kg drugs worth over Rs 20 million and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman.

He informed that 5.8 kg hashish was recovered from two suspects arrested near two famous universities of Islamabad.

4 kg hashish was recovered from an accused netted near a university in Rawalpindi.

6 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused held near GT Road, Attock.

The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions. The spokesman informed that in an operation, 4.8 kg heroin was recovered from a passenger going to Sri Lanka from Lahore Airport.

170 kg hashish was recovered from an area in Qilla Abdullah, Balochistan and 18 kg hashish was seized from a hilly area in Kohat. In eighth operation, 14.4 kg hashish was recovered from Ring Road Peshawar.

Massive trees removed across Murree Road for development schemes irks environmentalists

ISLAMABAD (APP): The home of Margalla Hills National Park nestling a plethora of wildlife species and unique biodiversity the federal capital's green area across Murree Road near the Lake View Park has been denuded by felling a large number of trees for two new development initiatives.

Shagufta Parveen, a young student of Quaid-e-Azam University who commutes daily to her varsity through that road regretted the recent brazen tree-cutting event in the vicinity.

She said that this patch of the major thoroughfare was lush green that reflected a grandiose view of massive foliage resembling to a forest that used to provide a nice ambience due to the concentration of fresh oxygen generated by the plants in the morning.

Parveen noted that a naturally vacant patch existed near the Bari Imam Junction of the Murree Road that had no tree cover and also required some infrastructure development to end the deserted look of that place.

"If there has to be development schemes in the area then it should be at the green places as the capital's iconic green cover was depleting due to such poorly planned and greed-based schemes that are eating up all the green spaces left," she added.

The QAU student urged the quarters concerned to take notice of the situation and review the decision of the civic agency intending to raise two new development projects on the site.

Aamir Khan, a climate activist based in the federal capital said the civic agency had an old and outdated reason for mutilating the green belts and spaces in the metropolis.

He criticised the federal capital's civic agency for its decision to establish development schemes on green belts and underscored that globally green areas are vital to ensure clean air and a healthy environment in mega urban centres. "But it was on the contrary in the case of Islamabad as its managers have their own set of knowledge and science that implies opposite to all globally established practices," he said.

Khan also emphasised the need to protect and augment the existing green spaces in the federal capital as a massively rising number of development initiatives including road expansions were decreasing the tree cover of the federal capital.

When contacted, Deputy Director General (DDG-I) Environment, Irfan Niazi told APP that these are two sites selected on 'Right of Way' of the Murree Road for establishing a gas station and a service area.

"The site has been properly earmarked by Planning Wing CDA. Islamabad is a Metropolitan and it is to be developed according to planning. The Right of Way on all major Roads and Avenues are therefore left for such services," he said.

The Right of Way along any planned thoroughfare or road is an area that has been planned as an untouched part of the road left for future expansion if required of that road to accommodate the increasing number of vehicular traffic due to the increasing population in a metro city.



ISLAMABAD: MNA, Engineer Qamar-ul-Islam Raja addressing during ceremony, On instructions of Prime Minister, Pak NDMA Dispatched 15th & 16th Consignment of 200 tons of relief items for people of Lebanon & Gaza through NLC convoy from NDMA's Warehouse.

Romina Khurshid for regional Climate Action Data Bank for evidence-based climate response

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to boost regional collaboration among the Vulnerable Twenty (V20) Group, representing 70 countries from the most climate-vulnerable regions and pledged her all-out support to set up V20 Climate Action Data Bank she proposed during a recent high-level meeting with representatives of the V20 member countries.

"Establishing the proposed data bank would be indeed a groundbreaking initiative to consolidate data on climate risks, economic losses and financial resilience-building needs of the V20 group member countries," the PM's climate aide said in a press statement issued here on Sunday.

She offered her country's willingness to play the lead role in mobilising V20 group mem-

ber countries to set up the crucial data bank.

Romina Khurshid Alam said further that this centralised platform would aim to empower V20 nations to effectively cope with adverse fallout of climate change by providing the critical evidence-based information needed for informed decision-making and resource mobilization from available climate regional and international funding channels for the result-oriented climate actions through adaptation and mitigation efforts.

The Vulnerable Twenty (V20) Group is a coalition of finance ministers from countries highly susceptible to climate change impacts. Established in October 2015 in Lima, Peru, the V20 aims to promote greater investment in climate resilience and low-emission development.

As of October 2024, the V20 comprises 70 member countries from Africa, Asia, the

Caribbean, Latin America and the Pacific, collectively representing over 1.7 billion people and accounting for just 5% share in the total heat-trapping global carbon emissions.

The PM's climate aide said that today the V20 countries, comprising more than 1.7 billion people, are disproportionately affected by climate change. Many of these nations grapple with rising sea levels, extreme weather events and rapid environmental degradation that threaten their economies, essential infrastructures, populations and livelihoods.

Given the V20 country's heightened climate vulnerability, the new data bank is inevitable to enhance access to reliable data to strengthen climate resilience strategies and leverage international funding," she underlined.

"Indeed, the proposed V20 Data Bank would be a major

step forward in our collective efforts to safeguard our vulnerable communities, economies and critical infrastructure from the devastating impacts of climate change," the PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam emphasised, "By centralizing data and making it widely accessible for decision-makers, policymakers and planners, we can ensure that every dollar is well spent and every action is informed by the best available evidence."

She said further that while climate finance needs to flow faster and with precision, this crucial data bank would be also helpful to eliminate barriers and expedite funding flows from various regional and international funding channels such as the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, and Loss and Damage Fund to where it's needed most.

Highlighting the importance of the data bank of the world's most climate-vulnerable coun-

tries including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan Philippines, the PM's climate aide remarked that the proposed V20 data bank would also be instrumental to enhance regional cooperation by facilitating the sharing of critical climate-related data and resources aimed at improving understanding of vulnerabilities and risks, enabling countries to develop sectoral and country-needs-tailored strategies for climate resilience through mitigation and adaptation efforts.

She also highlighted that by pooling data, V20 member countries can engage in joint risk analysis, promote innovative financial mechanisms and coordinate responses to climate challenges more effectively.

"With this new and crucial collaborative approach, the V20 countries can also strengthen collective resilience efforts,

ensuring that countries can better prepare for and respond to climate impacts, ultimately fostering sustainable development across the region," PM's climate aide said.

"By enhancing risk management, timely informed decision-making and strengthening regional cooperation can also help attract investment and yield economic benefits," she highlighted.

Romina Khurshid Alam said that access to comprehensive climate data could also effectively assist in negotiating better on terms with international financing institutions such as the Asian Development Bank, World Bank and the International Monetary Fund for debt-for-nature swaps, debt relief or restructuring to alleviate fiscal pressures and enabling governments to allocate resources toward development and resilience initiatives rather than debt servicing.

Agricultural exports surged

KABUL (BNA): In the initial nine months of 2024, Afghanistan's agricultural exports reached an estimated \$737 million, showcasing a strong presence in international markets. According to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, key export items included cotton, raisins, figs, onions, saffron, tomatoes, apricots, almonds, cumin, grapes, apples, tobacco, medicinal herbs, potatoes, and cucumbers.

The Frontier Post

Rabi-us-Sanni 24 1446 — Monday, October 28, 2024

Afghanistan beat Bangladesh

KABUL (Ariana News): Afghanistan U17 national football team defeated Bangladesh 3-2 in their final match of the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers on Sunday to end their campaign undefeated. Afghanistan's goals were scored by Yasir Safi, Milad Noori and Arash Ahmadi. It was the fourth and last game of Afghanistan in the AFC U17 Asian Cup Qualifiers. Afghanistan U17 had previously beaten the Philippines, Macau, and hosts Cambodia.

Tehran seeks to attract Afghan investors for major projects

KABUL (TOLONews): Hassan Kazemi Qomi, Iran's Special Representative for Afghanistan, told an Iranian media outlet that Tehran is working to attract Afghan entrepreneurs and private sector investors to invest in Iran's large-scale projects by providing additional facilities.

On the sidelines of the "First International Export Exhibition to Central Asia and Afghanistan" in Mashhad, Kazemi Qomi said that the development of Iran's Chabahar Port requires substantial investments.

He added that the Iran-Afghanistan route, with the expansion of this port, could establish a North-South and East-West regional transit corridor.

Khan Jan Alokozay, a board member of the

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment, told TOLONews: "There are contradictory figures, with some saying that billions of dollars have gone there without clear statistics. Many of our traders have gone to Iran, invested, and settled there, but Iran's conditions are far stricter than those in Dubai or Turkey."

Some experts highlight that Afghanistan currently requires investment in various sectors, and should the Islamic Emirate gain global recognition, the level of investment in the country would also increase.

Mohammad Asif Stanekzai, an economic analyst, told TOLONews: "The Islamic Emirate must make every effort to engage with the world and achieve international legitimacy.

Only then will international trade restrictions be lifted, and Afghanistan can transform into an industrialized country."

Another economic expert, Abdul Ghafar Nazemi, said: "Investment should happen in Afghanistan because the country has a very affordable labor force, and raw materials are inexpensive, which could help boost productivity. This is more beneficial than investing in other countries."

Previously, the Iranian Investment Association reported that the largest investments in various sectors of Iran have been made by Afghan investors. According to this association's report, Afghan citizens' investments in Iran total around four billion dollars.

UN reports rising needs as Afghanistan fund marks 10 years

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) marks its 10th anniversary, while the UN Humanitarian Aid Coordinator reports an increasing number of people in need over this period.

The Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) was established in 2014 to support rapid and strategic humanitarian actions in the country.

The UN Humanitarian Aid Coordinator released a report marking the fund's 10-year anniversary, emphasizing the importance of continued humanitarian aid in Afghanistan.

The report highlighted that over the past decade, Afghanistan has faced ongoing challenges, including conflict, political instability, droughts, earthquakes, food insecurity, the COVID-19 pandemic, poverty, and increasing vulnerability among women and girls.

According to OCHA, 10 years after the establishment of the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund, more than 23 million people in Afghanistan still require humanitarian assistance.

Joyce Msuya, the UN Deputy Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, urged the international community to continue supporting the fund to address urgent needs in Afghanistan.

The challenges facing Afghanistan remain persistent, with millions still struggling for basic needs amid ongoing instability. Continued international support is vital to ensure that humanitarian efforts reach those most vulnerable in this crisis-stricken country.

The situation is particularly dire for Afghan women and girls, who face heightened vulnerability due to both societal restrictions and limited access to essential services.

The humanitarian crisis calls for targeted efforts to address their specific needs and safeguard their fundamental rights.

Media help orgs urge ratification of media law

KABUL (TOLONews): Several media advocacy organizations have called on the interim government to ratify the Public Media Law.

Officials from some of these organizations, who attended the fifth anniversary of the establishment of a news agency, also urged the interim government and the international community to extend more support to domestic media outlets in Afghanistan.

Mohammad Sangar Amirzada, founder of Roydad News Agency, stated: "There is talk, but the necessary support for media is not seen. An assessment should be conducted to identify which media outlets are active and intend to continue operating under Afghanistan's current conditions."

Abdul Qadeem Viyar, head of the Committee for Journalists' Safety, said: "Last year, we provided financial assistance to 200 journalists who were facing financial difficulties."

Hujatullah Mujadidi, head of AJIA, commented: "Media can introduce the benefits of domestic products to the public, encouraging people toward self-sufficiency and the use of local products instead of foreign goods."

Additionally, business representatives at the event emphasized the critical role of media in raising public awareness.

Abdul Salam Kohi, legal and policy advisor for the Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said: "Media plays an important role in enlightening public opinion." Earlier, acting Minister of Information and Culture announced in a meeting with journalists in Paktia that the previous Public Media Law aligns with Sharia and the principles of the Islamic Emirate.

Kabir highlights country economic prospects



KABUL (BNA): Mawlawi Abdul Kabir, the Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs, underscored Afghanistan's promising economic opportunities in a meeting with Bahraini and Russian investors. During discussions at the Sepidar Palace, these investors

expressed their readiness to invest in Afghanistan's mining sector, aviation security, professional training, healthcare, and other fields.

The investors highlighted favorable investment conditions and the support offered by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan,

which they said has attracted interest from foreign-based companies eager to operate within the country.

Mawlawi Abdul Kabir emphasized the Islamic Emirate's efforts to strengthen Afghanistan's economy over the past three years, especially post-takeover.

He assured the investors of comprehensive support and added that key projects in oil extraction, mineral resources, pharmaceuticals, and infrastructure development are actively underway, creating significant economic opportunities in Afghanistan.

Strong diplomacy essential for Islamic Emirate, says Stanekzai

KABUL (TOLONews): Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, emphasized in a program in Kabul the importance of expanding the interim government's relations with other countries, adding that a strong diplomatic presence is currently a crucial need for the Islamic Emirate.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony of the third cohort of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Institute of Diplomacy, Stanekzai also stated that rebuilding the country after twenty years of war is a significant responsibility that must now be fulfilled properly.

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs remarked, "The world now resembles a village. In a village, no one can live without inter-

action, sharing joy and sorrow, visiting each other, and engaging in trade. This is evident. It is essential, especially for the Islamic Emirate, to have strong diplomacy."

According to this official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, although Afghanistan has made considerable economic progress over the past three years, more work remains to be done in this area.

Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai added, "The current pace is, in my opinion, not sufficient. It must be accelerated, which means we need to strengthen our relations with the world and engage in trade."

In another part of his speech, Stanekzai emphasized the importance of modern and religious education in the country,



stressing the need for special attention to this area.

Regarding the acquisition of modern and religious sciences, he stated, "Expanding knowledge and education is extremely important, particularly in an Islamic society like Afghanistan, which has endured forty years of war, damaging its schools, universities, and madrasas. In

this situation, it is essential for the Islamic Emirate to work hard to make the country self-sufficient in terms of knowledge."

In his speech, Stanekzai also highlighted the importance of assigning tasks to qualified individuals and strengthening the country's military sectors, noting that military development requires special attention.

China direct access to Afghan pine nut market, says officials

KHOST (TOLONews): Local officials in Khost province report that Chinese traders now have direct access to the pine nut market in the province. They aim to facilitate exports of this product directly from Khost Airport.

Mahboob Shah Qanit, deputy governor of Khost, stated: "The Islamic Emirate is working to provide necessary facilities for traders in this province. We are in contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to enable direct pine nut exports from Khost to other

countries. We will follow ministry guidelines and share the necessary information with traders."

The temporary pine nut market in Khost is one of the largest centers for buying and selling this product in the country, gathering pine nuts from various parts of Afghanistan.

However, traders express concern about the market conditions, noting that despite an increase in pine nut production this year, the market isn't as robust as in previous years.

Swat Khan, a trader, remarked, "We want pine nuts to be directly shipped to China from Khost Airport. When we send them to Pakistan or other countries, costs double."

Another trader, Afsar Ali Khan, added: "We buy pine nuts here in the mountains with Pakistani rupees, but transactions should ideally be conducted in afghani."

The Khost Chamber of Commerce and Investment announced that approximately 3,500 tons of pine nuts have been harvested in

the province this year.

Nawab Amiri, head of the Khost Chamber of Commerce and Investment, said: "Our wish is for air routes to the Middle East and Europe to be reactivated. Currently, the Rah-e-Abrishom route is open, allowing us to reach Europe through Turkey. As pine nut production and processing are essential, so too is its marketing."

In Khost's temporary pine nut market, temporary job opportunities are also available for women, children, and youth.

Retirees protest in Kabul over three years of unpaid pensions

KABUL (Khaama Press): A group of retirees blocked the street leading to the Ministry of Finance in Kabul protesting the non-payment of their three-year pensions by the Taliban.

The Taliban leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada, has dissolved the pension system in Afghanistan and halted payments to retirees.

According to the report, that during the protest, one of the retirees was detained by the Taliban and taken to Kabul's Second District.

The demonstration reflects the widespread dissatisfaction among retirees who are suffering from the current harsh conditions due to the economic crisis and neglect of their basic needs. Over the past three years, retired government employees in Kabul and other cities have staged protests. These retired employees say that they have not received their pensions for the last three years.

The protesters stated that the non-payment of their



pensions has caused them severe difficulties in their daily lives.

Earlier, in March this year, Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada had issued a decree to halt the deduction of pension contributions from employees' monthly salaries, effectively ending the pension

system in Afghanistan. The humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan remains dire, with severe poverty gripping the population. The lack of adequate financial support, such as unpaid pensions and decreasing salaries, especially for teachers, adds to the mounting concerns.

The situation is exacerbating everyday hardships for citizens, reflecting a country struggling to meet the basic needs of its people. As economic conditions worsen, the cries for aid and relief grow louder, demanding urgent attention from the international community.

WHO reaffirms support for health facilities



KABUL (BNA): Dr. Edwin Salvador, the WHO Representative in Afghanistan, assured Bamyan Governor Alhaj Mawlawi Abdullah Sarhadi of WHO's sustained support for provincial and district hospitals across Bamyan.

In their recent meeting, Mr. Salvador expressed satisfaction with the local government's cooperation, highlighting the steady con-

tinuation of WHO's health services in the COVID-19 Infectious Disease Hospital, the Bamyan Provincial Hospital, and various district clinics.

Mr. Salvador also noted WHO's recent deployment of skilled health professionals to the provincial infectious disease facility, Bamyan's main hospital, and district hospitals in Waras, Panjab, and

Yakawlang to enhance patient care.

Additionally, Governor Sarhadi appreciated WHO's commitment and assured the organization of full security and cooperation for its operations. He emphasized Bamyan's stable security under the Islamic Emirate, underscoring the absence of ethnic or religious discrimination in the region.

IE condemns Israeli airstrikes on Iran — calls for regional stability

KABUL (BNA): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has issued a strong condemnation of recent airstrikes carried out by Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In a formal statement, the ministry denounced these actions as a direct violation of Iranian sovereignty, adding that they represent an alarming escalation that risks exacerbating tensions across the region.

The statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasized that such attacks only serve to intensify regional instability and threaten the humanitarian situation.

It called upon the international community, particularly influential regional stakeholders, to actively work towards halting these acts of aggression, which it said undermine peace and stability.

Highlighting recent reports, the ministry noted that, over the past year,

Israel has extended its military actions beyond Gaza to other areas, creating additional concerns for security and human rights across the region.

According to recent media reports, Israeli forces launched airstrikes earlier today targeting military facilities in Tehran, Khuzestan, and Ilam provinces. The Iranian air defense system reportedly intercepted and neutralized several of these attacks, minimizing potential impact.

Yellow Line BRT significant project for Karachi citizens: Sharjeel

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has stated that the Yellow Line BRT is a significant project for the citizens of Karachi.

With the support of the World Bank, the project has been launched at a cost of 100 billion rupees. The buses will be operated under a Public-Private Partnership.

Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Mass Transit, Excise, and Taxation, Sharjeel Inam Memon, while speaking to the media after inspecting the development work of the Yellow Line BRT, said, "We will explore the possibility of discussing with the World Bank the operation of electric vehicles (EV) on this route as well."

He added that the Yellow Line will cover 21 kilometers, with a new bridge

being constructed alongside the Jam Sadiq Bridge. The contractor has committed to completing the project within 18 months, but the government aims to finish it earlier.

Sharjeel Inam Memon further stated that the Sindh government will operate double-decker buses and is also introducing environmentally friendly buses in Pakistan under the leadership of the People's Party.

In response to a question, Sharjeel Inam Memon said, "The Israeli lobby is active worldwide in support of Imran Khan, and the Goldsmith group is also actively working globally. During Imran Khan's regime, our leader, Ms. Faryal Talpur, was arrested on the night of Eid. However, we oppose the arrest of anyone's mother, sister, or daughter-in-law.

It appears that Imran Khan is receiving favorable

treatment, and behind this support are his ex-wife and brother-in-law, the Goldsmiths."

He added that Dr. Israr Khan's words are being proven true, stating that Imran Khan was imposed on us by Israel.

Both Dr. Israr and the late Hakeem Saeed said years ago that Imran Khan is a Jewish agent.

In response to another question, Sharjeel Inam Memon said, "Maulana Fazlur Rehman is an experienced politician, and his strength lies in never shutting the door on dialogue.

He further stated, "The Election Commission's decision mentioned that Imran Khan was funded by India and Israel. Shaheed Arshad Sharif had revealed in a TV show that money from India and Israel was deposited into these PTI secret accounts.

If Israel is raising its voice due to Imran Khan's

situation, it clearly indicates that he is a fitna (mis-chief) created by them."

He said, "PTI workers are innocent; the nexus is between Imran Khan and Israel.

Articles supporting Imran Khan were published in Israeli newspapers. Imran Khan has connections with Israel, though Barrister Gohar and Asad Qaiser may not be aware of this. I will not condemn the entire PTI. Imran Khan is an agent of Israel. Israel is exterminating human beings and is blind to cruelty and brutality."

He stated that the Israelis are calling for the arrest of Imran Khan. Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto made Pakistan a nuclear power, and Israel's nuclear weapon against Pakistan is Imran Khan Niazi.

Earlier, the provincial minister expressed gratitude to the media friends for visiting the project site.



KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Mass Transit, Excise, and Taxation, Sharjeel Inam Memon, speaking to the media after inspecting the development work of the Yellow Line BRT.

KP Assembly passes resolution expressing solidarity with Kashmiris

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly passed a joint resolution unanimously on Sunday to express solidarity with the people of Kashmir, highlighting ongoing human rights violations by Indian forces.

The resolution was presented by Law Minister Aftab Alam Afridi, Mushtaq Ghani, along with members Ahmed Kundi of PPP, Abdul Salam Afridi PTI, and others.

The assembly condemned the Indian government's actions in occupied Kashmir, saying that over the past 75 years, more than 100,000 people have lost their lives due to violence and oppression.

The resolution pointed out that around 25,000 women have become widows, and millions of children have been orphaned as a result of the conflict.

It emphasized that India maintains an occupying status in Kashmir, asserting that no political process can serve as a substitute for the right to self-determination.

The assembly also denounced the deployment of over 900,000 Indian troops in Kashmir and the imposition of oppressive laws.

In a tribute to the martyrs of Kashmir, the assembly expressed respect for their sacrifice and called upon the international community to take notice of

these atrocities.

It urged India to revoke its illegal actions taken on August 5, 2019, and reaffirmed the need for the Kashmiris to be allowed to determine their future in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

The resolution concluded with a strong message of support for the Kashmiri people, reaffirming the assembly's commitment to standing with them in their struggle for rights and justice.

Meanwhile, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly organized a walk at the Flag Point to observe Black Day for Kashmir, with Deputy Speaker Suraya Bibi in chair, ministers,

and assembly members in attendance.

Participants raised their voices in solidarity with the Kashmiri people, demanding that their rights be upheld in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

The event highlighted ongoing human rights violations in the region and called for increased international attention and action.

The walk served as a reminder of the struggles faced by Kashmiris and reinforced the assembly's commitment to advocating for their rights and self-determination.

The chair adjourned the assembly proceedings till Monday October 28, at 3pm.

Aurangzeb hails diaspora for bolstering Pak-US ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb appreciated Pakistani diaspora community on their valuable contributions in bolstering economic, business and investment ties between Pakistan and the United States.

During an interaction with diaspora leaders, the minister briefed them on the socio-economic developments in Pakistan and shared details of his week-long engagements in Washington DC, according to press release issued by finance ministry here Sunday.

The minister, during an interaction with Pakistani-American tech entrepreneurs, identified IT as one of the burgeoning sectors of the economy and informed that Pakistan ranked among top 5 countries in terms of freelancing.

He highlighted the contribution of IT sector to the rising exports of the country and informed that digi-

tal ecosystem was being enabled through a broad range of legislative, policy, regulatory and operational initiatives.

He expressed satisfaction over the outcome of his engagements with different stakeholders on the sidelines of the Annual Meetings 2024 and underlined the importance of staying the course on reforms.

The minister also met with the President of AIIB, Jin Liguang and acknowledged the Bank's support to Pakistan, particularly in dealing with the aftermath of the devastating floods of 2022.

He recalled his previous visit to China where he interacted with the management of Peoples Bank of China (PBOC). He indicated that government wanted to diversify its financing base and explore the possibility of issuing a panda bond with partial credit guarantee of AIIB.

He added that engaging AIIB as an anchor to sup-

port the process would send out a strong signal to the market.

The option of a no-deal roadshow first followed by a deal roadshow was also discussed. He expressed satisfaction over the progress of portfolio of AIIB projects in Pakistan and further efforts to improve the disbursement of ongoing projects.

On the infrastructure side, he invited AIIB to invest in N-5 (GT Road) reconstruction project and also provide support in terms of program loan for dealing with the impacts of climate change and disaster preparedness.

He also welcomed the upcoming visit of Vice President (Operations) wherein issues of mutual interest would be discussed and portfolio of ongoing projects reviewed and pipeline firmed up.

He invited the President to visit Pakistan which he accepted at mutually convenient dates to be decided later.

President pays tribute to security forces

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday paid tribute to security forces for launching two successful operations against terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The president, in a statement, commended the bravery of security forces for conducting successful operations against Khawarij terrorists.

He expressed resolve to continue operations against terrorists until the complete elimination of Fitna al-Khawarij.

"The entire nation stands with its security forces in the fight against terrorism", the president said.

Nationwide anti-polio drive from today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government will launch a week-long nationwide polio vaccination campaign from Monday, tomorrow to protect over 45 million children.

Reinforcing Pakistan's dedication to eradicating polio, the Pakistan Polio Programme is launching this vaccination campaign to address the resurgence of wild poliovirus and safeguard millions of children from the debilitating effects of polio.

This campaign aims to reach more than 45 million children across the country.

With unwavering commitment to eradicate polio, the Health officials called upon all parents and caregivers nationwide to play an active role in this campaign and ensure every child receives the polio vaccine.

The campaign will run from October 28 to November 3, aiming to vaccinate more than 45 million children under five years of age.

Additionally, Vitamin A supplements will be provided to enhance immunity.

This is Pakistan's third nationwide campaign this year, launched in response to the alarming increase in polio cases, with 41 cases reported so far in 2024 and across 71 districts.

Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication, Ayesha Raza Farooq, reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment, saying, "under the Prime Minister's guidance, we are re-energized in our efforts to combat polio."

stability at this year's Astana Summit. The Chinese envoy also acknowledged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's participation in the Astana Summit, where he discussed important initiatives aimed at achieving common goals.

Ambassador Jiang highlighted key outcomes from the 23rd Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government, held in Pakistan from October 15-16, 2024. He shared that according to his understanding, Chinese Premier Li Qiang proposed several initiatives focusing on four main areas: expanding practical cooperation among member countries, proactively addressing major risks, enhancing people-to-people exchanges, and building upon the consensus reached during earlier meetings.

Ambassador Jiang elaborated that these efforts align with China's broader vision to contribute towards regional stability and prosperity, as articulated by President Xi at the Astana Summit.

He underscored President Xi's consistent support for SCO's development, adding that Xi had promoted the organization as a platform for solidarity, mutual trust, and regional

Turning his attention to the BRICS Summit, the ambassador lauded the enlargement of BRICS, which he described as a "milestone in the evolution of the international situation."

He reaffirmed China's commitment to working with Pakistan within both BRICS and the SCO frameworks to foster closer collaboration.

In response to a question regarding Pakistan's potential BRICS membership, the ambassador expressed China's desire to strengthen solidarity with Pakistan in multilateral forums.

He further highlighted the importance of media-to-media and people-to-people exchanges between the two nations, noting that China had organized several media delegation visits to showcase progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and other key projects.

Ambassador Jiang stressed that CPEC had entered a new phase of development, with cooperation extending into emerging sectors such as electric vehicles and renewable

energy. The ambassador revealed that bilateral talks during Premier Li Qiang's visit had yielded concrete results, including the signing of many cooperation documents covering various sectors, with security cooperation as a key focus.

He reiterated President Xi's stance that "security is the guarantee for development," stressing the importance of enhanced collaboration to protect Chinese nationals and projects in Pakistan.

The ambassador acknowledged the sacrifices of Pakistan's military and police forces in counterterrorism efforts and urged the Pakistani government to bring the perpetrators of terrorist attacks against Chinese nationals to justice.

"The Chinese people who come to Pakistan are helping build its infrastructure; they are innocent and their families deserve protection," he stated, emphasizing the need for strict action against terrorist groups responsible for these attacks.

Kashmiris dream of freedom will become a reality soon: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, on Sunday said that October 27, 1947, was the darkest day in the history of the subcontinent, as on that day India illegally occupied the state of Jammu and Kashmir (IIIOJ&K).

In his message on October 27, Black Day of Kashmiris, he said on that day, India illegally annexed Jammu and Kashmir by landing its

troops against the wishes of Kashmiris, the federal minister for information said.

"Despite the atrocities and brutal policies of the Indian fascist government, the valiant Kashmiri people are fighting bravely for their freedom," said the minister.

Attaullah Tarar expressed his belief that Kashmiris would soon reach their destination and their dream of freedom would become a reality.

He said, "Kashmiri people will never accept

India's usurpation of occupied Jammu and Kashmir." He maintained that Pakistan was a strong supporter of Kashmiris' right to self-determination.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's bold stand on the Kashmir issue was a strong expression of Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the Kashmir cause and its desire for a just and peaceful solution to the long-standing conflict, he remarked.

Tarar said Pakistan had never backed down from advocating the legitimate

cause of Kashmiris at international forums.

"Pakistan always stands with the Kashmiri people and will continue to support their right to self-determination," he added.

"The only acceptable solution to the Kashmir dispute issue is a plebiscite under the supervision of the United Nations," he said. The minister urged the international community to play its role to find a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue and pressurize India to stop gross human rights violations in Kashmir.

Putin says Moscow will respond if West helps Ukraine

MOSCOW (Reuters): President Vladimir Putin said on Sunday that Russia's defence ministry was working on different ways to respond if the United States and its NATO allies help Ukraine to strike deep into Russia with long-range Western missiles.

The 2-1/2-year-old Ukraine war has triggered the biggest confrontation between Russia and the West since the depths of the Cold War, and Russian officials say the war is now entering its

most dangerous phase.

Russia has been signalling to the United States and its allies for weeks that if they give permission to Ukraine to strike deep into Russian territory with Western-supplied missiles, then Moscow will consider it a major escalation.

Putin said on Sept. 12 that Western approval for such a step would mean "the direct involvement of NATO countries, the United States and European countries in the war in Ukraine" because

NATO military infrastructure and personnel would have to be involved in the targeting and firing of the missiles. Putin said that it was too early to say exactly how Russia would react to such a move but that Moscow would have to respond accordingly and different options were being examined.

"(The Russian defence ministry) is thinking about how to respond to the possible long-range strikes on Russian territory, it will offer a range of responses," Putin told

Russian state TV's top Kremlin reporter, Pavel Zarubin.

With Russia advancing at the fastest rate in eastern Ukraine since the first months of the invasion, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has been pleading with the West to allow Kyiv to fire deep into Russia with Western missiles.

The United States has not said publicly if it will allow Ukraine to strike Russia, but some U.S. officials are deeply sceptical that doing so would

make a significant difference in the war. Ukrainian forces already strike deep into Russia on a regular basis with long-range drones.

Russian forces have taken control of the coal mining town of Selydove in Ukraine's Donetsk region just over a week after first storming the town, according to pro-Russian war bloggers.

Putin, who ordered thousands of troops into Ukraine in 2022 after eight years of fighting in eastern Ukraine, casts the

war as a battle between Russia and the declining West, which he says ignored Russia's interests after the 1991 Soviet collapse. Ukraine and its Western allies say Putin unleashed an imperial-style war against its smaller neighbour and have repeatedly said that if Russia wins the war then autocratic countries across the world will be emboldened.

Just weeks before the U.S. presidential election, Putin changed Russia's nuclear doctrine in what

the Kremlin said was an attempt to signal Russia's concern over Western discussions about missile strikes from Ukraine.

Asked if the West had heard Russia's warnings, Putin told Zarubin: "I hope they have heard. Because, of course, we will have to make some decisions for ourselves, too."

Putin said that only NATO officers would be able to fire such weapons into Russia and that they would need to use Western satellite data for

targeting the weapons so the question is really "whether they will allow themselves to strike deep into Russian territory or not. That is the question."

U.S. officials say the United States is not seeking to escalate the conflict. How a new U.S. president will approach the war is unclear: former U.S. president Donald Trump has said he will end the Ukraine war while Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris says she will continue to support Ukraine.